THE CONFEDERATE.

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WEEKLY CONFEDERATE.

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THE CONFEDERATE

ADVERTISING.

JOB WORK.

The habit of politicians is to find fault with administrations whither or no. They accuse, against those who disagree with them, every imaginable offence. They deal in generalities, so if possible to set the advantage of making an accusation, without affording to those accused, the opportunity of refuting the accusation. In this way, they throw upon the head of government, or the heads of departments, or superior officers, all the offences of subordinates, without ever attempting to bring to their notice the particular offender, or offence—intending only to aid their opposition to certain administrators. But while this is the conduct of partizans, it is an example not to be followed by the public.

All officers of the Government whether civil or military, whether superior or subordinate, are servants of the public interests, and it is the duty of all citizens to take notice when such public servants slight or omit their duties to the public detriment, or are guilty of any malfeasance in the office which they hold.

It is for the want of this public scrutiny, and because so few persons are disposed to report the misconduct of those who hold offices, that neglect and disregard of duty, and criminal departures from duty so often occur, by which the Government is brought into disrepute, and the popular rights and interests are damaged.

We present to our readers to-day, a sensible and practical article, on this subject from a late Richmond Sentinel, and we commend to our readers, that now when society is deeply interested in the fidelity of public officers, they ought to adopt the Sentinel's suggestions, and feel it a duty to report those who are guilty of improper or negligent conduct.

Malfeasance in Office.

It is the duty of citizens, when an instance of malversation in office comes under their observation, to make report of the offence to the superior authorities. It is a duty which they owe to themselves and the country, and which they may not omit without justly incurring censure. The public interest are involved—nay, in a time like this, the public safety is at stake,—and a patriot has no proper election as the course he will pursue.

This duty of the citizen involves a corresponding duty on the part of the officer to whom offences are to be reported. If the one must inform, the other must listen. If one must indicate the existence of malpractice, the other must promptly investigate and punish.

Nor is the duty of either the citizen or the supervizing authority, by any means, confined to such cases of offence as are capable of being presented in the form of an exact accusation, supported by full and technical proof. To lay down such a rule would be to grant impunity to the great majority of criminals.—The purpose of an information is to institute and direct inquiry; and its just responsibility are fully met, if it show *probable cause*. The magistrate commits for trial upon a *reasonable suspicion*. The grand jury orders a man to stand for his life, on *ex parte* testimony.—It is only by an authoritative investigation, that the evidence which unfolds the truth, can usually be discovered; and this investigation it is the province of Government to undertake and to conduct on its own responsibility. If no trial were ever ordered until absolute proof of guilt were first pronced, and by some volunteer prosecutor, the courts might almost as well be abolished, and public justice declared at an end.

These principles seem obviously just; but they are not understood so to be so conceded in practice, in some of the departments of the Government. Some of the officers who are charged with the oversight of subordinates, do not take hints or ordinary information from citizens, as guides to their own observations and investigations. They require a responsible allegation and formal proof as the foundation of an inquiry. They have been led to adopt this reserve probably in consequence of the great number of complaints due to ignorance or querulousness, or originating in personal feeling. These they may always expect; but these are not sufficient to justify them in repulsing the approaches of all citizens indiscriminately. They should, on the contrary, keep an open door for honest well-meaning men, and receive with manifestations of thankfulness the communications which they may make for the good of the public service. An investigation which the Government may conduct without inconvenience, is often matter of personal feud, perhaps deadly quarrel, if avowedly based on a private accusation. Individuals will shrink from occupying such a position, if not from timidity, at least from that preference for quiet which most men feel. Especially will they do this when they are not personally possessed of proof adequate to the full establishment of their opinions. Officers who place obstacles in the way of receiving information as to the malversation of their subordinates, will find indeed that they escape the annoyance of frivolous complaints, but they will succeed also in giving license to the unworthy to do pretty much as they list.

Such impunity must operate very disadvantageously in a community circumstanced as is ours. An infinite number of public agents are scattered over the country, many of them entrusted with the most delicate duties, where the observation of superiors is impossible, and where, in consequence of the difficulty of detecting irregularities, there can be but little responsibility. In such cases, the public eye and ear, must be the principal witnesses and destructives. The observations of the citizens ought to be carefully invited, and their statements respectfully listened to and duly weighed. They must not be told to be silent unless they shall choose to volunteer as positive accusers and formal prosecutors, and thus give to a public matter the aspect and character of a private alteration. An officer has no right to thrust such an alternative upon a citizen; and its effects is as we have said, to secure license and impunity to offenders, even to such as excite the most open disgust.

It required no gift of prophecy, whatever to predict what the result of the interview between the "peace commissioners," and Lincoln and Seward would be.

This result is entirely consistent with the persistent assumptions of our enemies.—Lincoln has so often repeated the declaration that peace could only ensue on submission to his authority; and the acceptance of the laws of the United States—of which his proclamations were a part—that no one could for a moment pretend to be ignorant of his purposes. And Congress had conformed itself strictly to his doctrines; and *never had there been one single authoritative announcement that there was any other offer to be made to us.*- Nevertheless, there were some among our people who pretended, and others who really thought, they saw chances of negotiations, on the basis of an honorable peace. The effort to open negotiations by our government—the honesty and sincerity of which no one can now question—places the matter now in such a light, that there is no longer any scope for fancy or surmise.

In emphatic language, the government of the United States refuses to enter upon negotiations with Confederate government, through its authorities; *and declares that it will listen to no terms or proposals of any agreement, looking to an ultimate settlement, from the States seperately.* Messers. Stephens, Campbell and Hunter convey this intelligence, over their own signatures, to the people; and thus a period as put, it once, and definitely, to all possibility of separate State action, or joint action by States. We trust that the effect of this information will be, to lay this notion aside, as an obsolete idea. This will surely be the case with all men who have ever been sincere; and we have reason now to expect, that a unanimous sentiment for resistance will live in every heart, and breathe from every lip. Now is the time—perhaps the last men may have, who have been misled into positions of seeming hostily to the cause—to put themselves right. The war spirit is rousing again in the land. The fires of 1861 are beginning to be rekindled. They will soon blaze and flame, lighning up the whole land with a glorious enthusiasm.

As ever, the army is in the advance; and its noble and ardent resolution already commences to be emulated. Our dispatches, of yesterday, bring intelligence of an *"immense war meeting in Richmond, with patriotic speeches from President Davis and Gov. Smith"*—speeches which *were cheered by an enthusiastic multitude.* This will be followed by mass assemblies, throughout the war-worn Commonwealth of Virginia, whereat, her eloquent and gifted Orators will plead the cause of freedom, to be won by "strong arms and stout hearts." And North Carolina will respond to this appeal of her border sister. Her people will catch the enthusiasm; they, too will assemble, to listen, and resolve. We may expect, with confidence, that Graham, Gilmer, Smith, Turner, Dr. Leach, (for we have reason to believe that strong as have been his inclinations to peace negotiations, that he will spurn the degrading propositions of Lincoln) and the whole Congressional delegation, will come forward to address, to encourage and lead the people, in the new movement about to take place. And not only they; but, that all the intellect and beauty in the State, will now rally to an undivided support of the cause, until not a voice shall be heard, in all the State, but the voice of courageous purpose. If this shall be the case, we may then hope for quick and important changes in our condition. Victory will come again to our standard, and remain there. No more will the vigor of the arm be weakened by the timidity of the will. The war will be shortened by the devotion of the nation's power and resource, to the single object of carrying it on. Restored confidence will put an end to many evils, and much suffering engendered by its loss; and the country will revive under the inspiration of a brave and determined spirit.

It is perfectly true that we have the enemy now in a better position to give him a fatal blow, than we have ever had since the war began. There is Sherman, in the swamps of Eastern Carolina, where the roads are few, narrow, and flanked by impassable swamps. A comparatively small force ought to lock him up, front and rear, and utterly destroy him. His overthrow would recoil at once upon Grant, whose position would be untenable, with Sherman destroyed. If, within a reasonable time after meeting, in November, Congress had adopted the necessary legislation properly to reinforce the armies, we would now have had a force in front of Sherman, and another on his flank, capable of demolishing him. It is not yet too late. If even Charleston and Wilmington be lost, and our lines be withdrawn from the coast, if, then, the strength and courage of the nation be employed, our independence will be certain and speedy. Who will put the ball in motion, to re-establish the harmony of our people in North Carolina?

Governer Clarke has issued a proclamation convening the Mississippi Legislature in extra session. It is to assemble in Macon on the 29th of February.

The Crisis—How met.

The Legislature, in its last moments, bethought it, that it might be of import in this impending crisis, to re organize for the moment the military strength of the State; and a bill was introduced to "Promote the efficiency of the Home Guard." We are not informed of the specific items of the bill; but the amendments introduced, soon disclosed the object really to be, to "promote the *deficiency* of the Home Guard."

One member proposed to exempt Wardens of the Poor. Another, to exempt all county officers. Another, to exempt overseers of roads and patrols. Another, the Mayor and Commissioners and police of Raleigh. Another, those of Salisbury, Wilmington, &c., &c., Where upon, *Mr. Sam'l F. Phillips proposed to exempt all the mayors, commissioners and police of all incorporated cities, towns, villages, and cross-roads in the State.* Upon being informed that there were no incorporated cross-roads, Mr. Phillips withdrew that part of his proposition. What became of the bill, amid the display of harlequinism which ensued, it was impossible for an intelligent observer to discern.

If a stranger had happened suddenly on this assembly; and had been told—"this State is at war; a large portion of it is occupied by an invading enemy; many, many of its people are destitute refugees, exiled from their homes, and the same enemy is threatening its vitals; and these are they who are legislating for its defence"--this stranger would have at once said, "your people have sent *idiots* to take care of their safety."

We defy, from the productions of history, any scene bearing comparison with that of Monday, in the House of Commons.

When it was ascertained that Messrs. Stephens, Campbell and Hunter had returned to Richmond, with the ultimatum of Lincoln, declaring that unconditional submission, with the abolition of slavery, were his only terms to be allowed to rebels, Judge Person, of New Hanover, offered a preamble and resolutions in the House of Commons, reciting the facts as being authentic, and declaring the duty and purpose of our people to resist so degrading an alternative. It might have been supposed that so loyal, true and manly a sentiment, would have met unanimous sanction; but it was quite the contrary. Dr. Grissom moved to postpone till May. Mr. Smith, of Johnston, would have moved something worse still, but Mr. Samuel F. Phillips obtained the floor. And now hear words of wisdom. This gentleman was not prepared to act with haste; he required *time* to decide whether he would say a word for his country—whether he would declare resistance in preference to submission. He would wait for the Commissioners' report. In vain was he told, that the information was authentic—approved by the proper authority. Mr. Phillips succeeded in preventing the House of Commons from declaring that the offer of submission was incompatible with the honor and safety of the people of North Carolina.

Does Orange county approve this conduct? Where is the spirit of the men of seventy-six? Is there no rebuke in these days for a *slow coach*, that cannot be dragged over the road of patriotism?

A Wonderful Exploit.

The Legislature, in its last hours, consecrated Surgeon General Warren to have the rank and emolument of Brigadier General, for distinguished services.

Happening, in the moment when General Robert E. Lee is appointed to be General-in Chief of the armies of the Confederacy, this tribute to military worth in North Carolina is not without significance. The two events run *pari passu;* and each will obtain a decision from the public judgment.

Orders, announcing the transmission of boxes to *our soldiers*, once a month, will be now signed *Brigadier General Warren, S. G.* We have no doubt that Walter Thompson and Mr. Utley will continue in the same business, notwithstanding that no promotion has been extended to them.

Col. F. M. Parker, late of the 30th N. C. T., of Cox's (Ramseur's) Brigade, has been retired from active duty, on account of wounds received, and ordered to report to Gen. Holmes, who has given him general superintendence of Enrolling offices in the 1st and 2nd Districts of this State. Col. P., is a brave and efficient officer, and he will be greatly missed by his gallant regiment, who loved him with filial love.

We opine, he will stir up Enrolling officers generally, and smoke out many skulkers, who flattered themselves they were secure for the war. If all enrolling officers would do their whole duty, there would be no need of consolidation in North Carolina Regiments.

Brig. Gen. Bryan Grimes has been made Major General, and assigned to Rodes' Division, of Early's (Ewell's) corps. The division consists of two North Carolina, one Georgia, and one Alabama Brigade. Gen. Grimes is an excellent officer, and will admirably fill the place of the gallant and lamented Rodes.

General Custis Lee has been made a Major General, and assigned to the command of a division on the north side of the James.

For the Confederate.

Peace.—Where is it?

Some people tell us that "grim-visaged war" is about to "smooth his wrinkled front," and so decidedly do they prophesy, so conclusively do they reason, that many of us are beginning to believe that we shall really wake up some morning (very soon) and hear the bells tolling the blessed advent of gentle peace. God grant it—if it come honorably. The circumstances of our present political condition, and the rapid strides of great events, make it exceeding difficult for even the best informed minds of the most astute statesmen in the land to have any fixed opinion about "coming events." They "cast their shadows" before us, but the shadows assume no certain shape. Every body knows that we can have peace on terms which amount to practical submission—subjugation. Mr. Lincoln, again and again, has promised to receive us "erring brothers" into the peaceful bosom of the Union, provided we lay down our arms. And unpalatable as this may appear, it is possible that we may yet amaze the nations, whose admiring gaze has been upon us so long, by a cowardly acceptance of the terms. It no longer shocks, nay, scarcely irritates the public mind to hear men in high places counsel action which leads to this deplorable—despicable end. From the Senate chamber of this State loud voices are piteously appealing for negotiations which will effect this sort of peace. Only the other day the senator from Guilford declared, emphatically and dramatically, that it was his fixed purpose to imitate another great senator who always closed his harangues to the Roman Senate, with those memorable words, *delenda est Carthago.*—"In like manner," said the honorable member, "will I continue to close with, *we must have peace.*" The gentleman might have more appropriately stood on the floor of the United States Congress and delivered this eloquence to an audience that would surely applaud; and it would have better conformed to his known sentiments, and the *sense* and *analogy* would have been more strikingly complete, had he said *delenda est confederatio.*

There are not a few leading minds arduously toiling to bring this *destructive* peace to their beloved (?) people. It is a viper whose sting might warm into a vitality and some day strike those who may have too hastily embraced it, and so, these people, with commendable care and due consideration, have lately pushed forward a catspaw orator for the purpose of feeling the pulse of the public. By frequent application of these anesthetic remedies, they hope to get the patient into such condition that the most violent *resecting* operation may be performed. The authors of Mr. Hanes' speech, (recited to the House of Commons two weeks ago,) in their labored theories which sound very plausible to the popular ear, take higher and bolder ground than ever, and it is easy to see in what direction they are moving. The major portion of this remarkable production would sound well in Faneuil Hall, Boston. It is painful to all true Confederates to know that such men have being. The great heart of the nation, we may thank Heaven, does not beat responsively to any such terms of treason. It is perfectly evident that our government is not so basely recreant to all sense of honor, not so lost to reason and good sense, not so foolishly suicidal as to desire or except a reconstructed peace. These are the terms, viz: "Union as it was—Constitution as it is," on which the Federal Government will insist. Failing in this, it is possible that independence may be offered us on the conditions of prospective emancipation of the slaves, and mutual reiteration with immediate enforcement of the Monroe doctrine. There is, evidently, an outside European pressure on the Yankee government, which may operate so powerfully, that, the United States will be the first power, after all, to acknowledge our nationality.

But in this event (should we accept the terms) shall we have *peace?* Not only would it be the policy of wisdom in the Federal Government thus to attempt to heal the grievous wounds inflicted on us, or at least *hide the scars*, but the *allied* States, from sheer necessity of keeping "honor bright," would immediately declare war against France, and, perchance, England; and the bayonets so long pointed at each other would respectively turn to opposite points of the compass. Who can doubt there would be a struggle?—long and great—a struggle of giants, for *the prize of the victors will be a continent.* It would be a death grapple between democracy and monarchy. *Wherever* we turn our eyes, then, grim war stars us in the face. The whole circumference of the political horizon is glowing with its red beams in whose sombre light we stand, and with a kind of fearful solemnity, peer into the great future. "Destiny! destiny!" rings and echoes along the corridor of time, and it is our duty, calmly and wisely, to look straight into this corridor, and if Divine wisdom has decreed war as the inheritance of the present generation, it becomes us to accept *our destiny* right manfully. If this is to be our *normal condition*, if for the living us, never more shall "the war-drums cease to beat, and the battle flags be hurled," it becomes every man of us to act bravely his part.

If the path of duty leads into gloom and danger and darkness, still it is safest and best to *follow* that path. Willing or unwilling, faint-hearted or bold, a higher necessity is pressing us on to the accomplishment of the grand and mysterious purposes of "Him who doeth all things well."

It may be (who knows?) that the time comes when this little globe of ours shall tremble to its centre with the tread of immense martial hosts gathering for the last grand struggle, and that the heavens above us shall presently echo the fearful thunders of the last battle between "Gog and Magog." It may be that the events now transpiring may be only little scenes in the first act of the last tragedy of nations—that when the curtain falls it will be the last of our petty plays in which Sin and Crime shall be the applauded "stars" of the delighted legions of the damned. It may be that when the curtain shall next rise, this stage shall be so regenerated, that the company of heaven bending from their shining seats to witness the glorious performances of Virtue and Purity, shall throw down before the world's foot-lights a chapel of plumes from angels' wings, to the "little child" that leads together "the lion and the lamb." In one word, to drop metaphor, it may be that we live in the time which immediately precedes the millenium—that even now the kingdoms of this world totter to their fall, and His kingdom comes. It is enough to make the tear tremble in the eye, the heart throb almost to bursting to see and feel that this may be—though dark—a picture of truth, nature, reality—that we who live now, must be actors in this drama. We cannot look for better times in the popular direction. Rather one thing is *certain*—peace will not, cannot come through either channel whence we now expect it. To seek it either in *"submission,"* "unconditional" Union, or "conditional" independence is vain as it would be to expect the solar system, suddenly and miraculously, to refuse to obey those natural laws, by which its operations have been governed for nearly six thousand years. Where then shall we look for it? Is there no hope? It is to be feared there is none for the people, weary and sick of war, will, at no distant day, accept a so-called peace. If so, may God have mercy on us all.

The only hope of a lasting peace to these Confederate States is in UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE. To prosecute the war to that end is not only a duty we owe ourselves, but posterity, and after all, those who favor this, those whom traitors call *war men* are the best and truest *peace men.* It is the surest way, the *only* road to permanent peace for us. But how? why? Because the balance of power would be so equally adjusted on the continent, that none would desire or dare to break the peace. Without alliances, each independent of another, the two democratic and the two monarchical governments would be very quiet in their dispositions. The time might come when the antagonism of feeling and sentiments in the two forms, would generate strife, and then would come a clash of arms, which would sweep one or the other from this land. But that time would not be now. We should escape the ordeal.

Some faces grew sad at the perusal of the last dispatches from Richmond, which stated that the "London *Times*" says that "none of the European powers will guarantee the independence of the Confederacy as proposed, even with agreement to abolish slavery"—and that Butler had said to a Lowell audience that "it is idle to talk of peace or reunion; "till the rebel army of Northern Virginia is defeated or captured." If the "English Thunderer" and the "Northern Beast" are reliable exponents of the respective sentiments they profess to represent, this is joyful news. For there comes a hope that there is an imperious moral necessity on us to 'fight it out,' and engenders the belief that we can expect nothing much from the great "commission" to Washington. It will, probably, amount to nothing tangible, and it is to be hoped, that existing dissensions may be healed—that no longer by such means shall that demoralization exist among the people at home, which threatens to extend its dangerous influences to the army. We should reserve ourselves for *a little more* of suffering, and of conflict.

Now, in this crisis, we should be firm as the everlasting hills—inflexible as the giant oaks of the forest. We should never consent to desert the cause of Liberty and Independence—that cause to which have been voluntarily given the lives of Jackson, Stuart, Ashby, Pettigrew, Bee, Barton and a host of other known and unknown heroes. *We, we, of the present,* who have fought in this war, can never embrace the detested Yankee by re-union—never shake his blood-stained hand in alliance—and surely, on bended knees, will never bow to him in base submission. In the hereafter, when this river of blood shall have flown by, policy may dictate to future generations an alliance or perchance, re-union. But everything forbids it now.

Unconditional Independence is our safest peace. Those who seek conditional union are fit for the tyrant's yoke. There is reaction now, but let us remember that revolutions never go backwards. If we are true to ourselves, all is well. Peace will come in *His* own good time, and with it independence. Even now, the invincible "army of Northern Virginia," guarding alike the gates of historic Petersburg, and the temple of freedom, is sending forth words of good cheer to hearts which were desponding, and thousands of the same voices which have cheered for liberty on a hundred victorious fields, assure their loved ones that all is well, all is well. Submission? never. Re-union! never. In tones which may well chill the blood of the oppressing Vandals of the North, and send a thrill of joy to the hearts of all who love this Sunny South, re-echoing like thunder from the cold trenches yonder, and ringing all over this brave land, they are shouting,

"Forward! let us do or die."

FELTON, 9th V. C.

[The above communication was handed in some days since, and we intended it to be inserted in yesterday's paper, but the copy was misplaced.—ED. CONFEDERATE.

A soldier of Clingman's Brigade, in Hospital below Wilmington, writes us a letter of inquiry, and says—

"I volunteered as a private in March, 1862, in the 51st Regiment N. C. T., for three years unless sooner discharged by proper authority, and I have been practicing medicine ever since July, 1863. I want to know if I can be compelled to serve a longer period, or will my profession clear me?"

It is our impression that the authorities can still retain him in service, after his present term has expired, under the conscription act. The fact of his being detailed in the practice of medicine will not exempt him.

Maj. Gen. Pegram, killed in the battle at Hatcher's Run, near Petersburg, on the 6th inst., had been married only two weeks.

IMPORTANT RUMOR.—It is rumored that the French Consul at Charleston has called officially on Mayor Macbeth, and shown him his Exequatur signed by President Davis. If true it is virtual recognition.—*Chronicle and Sentinel.*

The Furlough Bill.

MEETING OF THE 43D N. C. TROOPS.

At a meeting of Company "A" 43d Regiment, held Feb. 1st, 1865, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, It appears that a spirit of despondency, arising from a gloomy view of the disasters which have recently befallen our arms, and from a groundless distrust in the honesty, patriotism and administrative talents of our President, and the ability of our army to successfully cope with the enemy in the coming campaign, is insinuating itself into the minds of the people; and casting them, unmindful alike of the rivers of blood which constitute a boundary which no compromise can cross, and regardless of the sacrifices which have already been made, to desire peace upon the basis of a reconstruction of the old Union; And whereas, there exists in the Legislature of our State, as shown by some of their recent actions, a timidity alike unmanly and unwarranted by the present condition of our affairs; and believing that a free expression of the feelings and opinions entertained by those who have faced the enemy in many a hard fought battle, and who now constitute but a remnant of a once proud and chivalrous band, would have a tendency to elevate the tone of public sentiment, cheer the desponding, strengthen the wavering and silence croakers, we do therefore resolve,

1st. That we have unabated confidence in the fidelity, honesty, patriotism and ability of President Davis; that we believe that in all cases he has been actuated by a spirit of devotion to the country, and a sincere and earnest desire for the promotion of the public good; and we belive that the safety of the Republic, no less than his own merits, requires that the whole country should give him their generous and united support.

2d. That in the recent reverses to our arms, we see nothing to excite serious concern, as to the final issue of the struggle for independence in which we are engaged, but rather an incentive to a grand effort, nobler sacrifices, and a more unflinching determination.

3d. That to accept a peace, on any other conditions than the recognition of our national independence, would be injustice to ourselves, to the cause of Liberty, and insulting to the memory of our brave comrades who have so nobly sacrificed their lives on their country's altar.

4th. That though not unmindful of our past toils and sacrifices, and while we would hail with delight the return of an honorable peace, yet having taken up arms in defence of our rights, we will never willingly lay them down until the Confederacy is acknowledged as a free and independent power among the nations of the earth.

5th. That we beseech the Legislature of our State to allow their proceedings to be marked by no spirit of opposition to the Confederate Government, but rather a disposition to bring all available means to the support and advancement of the cause of Liberty.

6th. That relying upon the justice of our cause, making the best possible use of the means with which Providence has provided us, and prayerfully leaving the result to the God of battles, are the only means by which we may expect either to merit or secure the peace and independence we so much desire.

7th. That we have no new pledges to make, but stand ready with our lives to redeem those already given.

8th. That a copy of these proceedings be forwarded to Regimental and Brigade Head Quarters; also to the State Journal and Wilmington Journal and the Richmond Sentinel for publication.

S. D. FARRIOR, Pres't.

B. F. HALL, Sec'y.

Take Care of your Confederate Money.

We think that the period of superbundance of Treasury notes is near its close. The amount in circulation is to be limited to one hundred and fifty millions, instead of five hundred millions, as it was not long ago; and that hundred and fifty millions is to serve not only the purposes of trade but the requirements of the people to pay the enormous taxes which Congress is about to levy. It is said these taxes will hereafter amount to seven hundred millions of dollars a year—that is, the full amount annually required to support the government in the prosecution of the war, until the yankees shall be willing to make peace. It would be unwise, of course, and even unjust, to throw all the burden of this upon the Present, if any part of it could be postponed to the Future; but that cannot be, for the people do not buy the government bonds to any considerable extent, and it would not only be useless but absolutely injurious to issue more Treasury notes. The government has but three modes by which to provide means; the issue of Treasury notes, the sale of bonds, and the collection of taxes. The two first having been exhausted, the third only remains. The taxes will be high, very high. But, as heretofore, the people will pay them cheerfully. They are the price of Liberty; and it is better to pay that price than to allow the yankees to take all and to take our liberty along with that all.

What we desire particularly to impress upon our readers now, is the fact, that it will take the whole amount in circulation, four times each year, to pay seven hundred millions of dollars of taxes. Probably a large portion will be made payable in kind, and not in money; but still there will be so much remaining to be paid in money as to create a use for all the Treasury notes that most people can command. What will be the consequences? An inevitable scarcity of currency, its certain appreciation, and unequally certain depreciation of the values of all other things. Those who have been scattering their treasury notes as if they were little better than so much waste paper, and thereby damaging the cause of their country, will have abundant opportunity and leisure to repent of their folly and want of patriotism.—*Fayetteville Observer.*

GO AGAIN! THEM.—"I suppose you have learned, gentlemen," said our great Military Casuistan, General Lee, to two clergymen who had called on him, and were conversing about the best means of promoting the spiritual interests of soldiers, "that the way to benefit soldiers and make them willing to receive religious instruction, is to go among them, and stay with them."

THE CONFEDERATE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1865.

Very soon after hostilities began—before the blood was up, and heated—when it was supposed that some remains of a once friendly feeling might be preserved by the North—and before our enemies could be supposed to have forgotten the cherished and much-lauded principles of the right of self-government,—Mr. Davis made an earnest effort to negotiate for peace. Twice did he make this effort. Afterwards, when the brutalities, practised on our people, threatened to involve the strife in departures from the rules of civilization, he again, listening to the suggestion of Vice President Stephens, requested that gentleman to obtain a hearing of the Federal authorities—if for no more, at least, in order to mitigate, if possible, the horrors of war. In each instance, his efforts were rejected with insulting contumely.

Thereafter, citizens of the North, some of them officers in their service, came to the lines of the enemy's army, and asked to cross our lines, in the interests of peace. They were so permitted; and when they came to Richmond, they were well received—and invited to a hearing—and assured by President Davis, of his willingness, at any moment, to begin negotiations for an honorable peace.

Subsequently still, Mr. F. P. Blair came to Richmond, on a similar mission; and to him the same frank and free hearing was extended. And then followed a *"written notification, which satisfied President Davis that the President of the United States was disposed to confer, informally, with unofficial agents that might be sent by him, with a view of restoring peace."*

This written notification was promptly complied with; and Vice President Stephens, and Hons. R. M. T. Hunter, and J. A. Campbell, were selected to hold the conference.—There was not only, in the character of the persons selected, but also, in the manner of their selection, an earnest, of the sincere purpose of the President, and of his desire for the successful issue of the conference. He thus stands before the people of the Confederate States, acquitted of all suspicion of having ever interposed in the way of peace. Nay, more, he stands, proved by irrefutable testimony, to have sought every possible opportunity for negotiations.

It is already before the public how signally and offensively to us has been the failure of this last mentioned conference. Our commissioners were floated down stream to Hampton Roads. They were invited no further. They were not permitted to visit Washington, and they bring influence to bear, as their established reputation would well carry. They were not even allowed to land at Fortress Monroe; but Lincoln and Seward met them on board the boat, and there, expressly and unequivocally, these distinct propositions, about which there could be neither misapprehension nor misrepresentation, were made.

1st. That Lincoln's Government would make no terms, or proposals of any agreement, looking to an ultimate settlement; nor accept any offer of such, from the authorities of the Confederate States.

2d. That he would offer no terms or proposals, nor accept any from the States separately.

3d, That the laying down of our arms—the unconditional submission of our people to the laws of the United States, and to his proclamation, as stated in his message of December last—would alone be received.

4th. That no truce or armistice would be granted, except on the explicit assurance of such submission.

5th. That the two-thirds majority, in each House of Federal Congress, had passed the amendments to the United States Constitution, abolishing slavery, and this must be accepted as the disposition of the question.

6th. That the surrender of our Government and people, would place the citizens, subject to the pains and penalties under the laws of the United States, for treason and rebellion, with a promise merely that Lincoln will make a liberal use of his power in remitting punishments.

And with this emphatic claim upon eight millions of people, to the absolute surrender of their rights, property, liberties and Government, they—*Lincoln and Seward*—dismissed our delegation—the one relating his jokes, and the other his blasphemous hypocrisy—"God bless you, Hunter. Remember me to old friends in the South."—As though the devil in Hell were to say to a lost soul, just arriving—"Good morning, friend. I give you the most comfortable lodging in malebogre. God bless you."

The above is a fair recital of the attitude our enemies take towards us, and the insulting temper they display.

The single question now is: Do our people mean to submit? Will they accept the confiscation and emancipation of their property—the rule of the Yankee—the loss of liberty and the entailment upon their families, now, and for generations to come, of the horrors of subjugation. Or, will they, in the spirit of lofty and manly patriotism, forget the past differences, conciliate dissensions, and unite to save our country from the deplorable woes which threaten her.

Among the members of the Legislature who gained the most desirable reputation, and among those who wielded the best influence, was Major McLEAN, of Harnett. The firm and unwavering support, given by this gentleman, on all occasions, to the cause of the country; the bold and intrepid manner in which he defended her interests; and the practical, and sensible suggestions, which he always made, gave him whenever he spoke, the attention of the house.

The Yankee despatches, touching the peace negotiations, make a stronger case than even the report of our Commissioners. It appears from them that Mr. Stephens, in his earnestness to work out a solution of this dreadful difficulty, and to stop the horrors of war, asked only for a temporary recognition, with an assurance that, if such were granted, then an arrangement might be made, which would amount to a practical union of North and South. This was making the point fine.—It was possibly as extreme a ground as any true man in the South could acquiesce in.—But, even this was refused. *No recognition, either of States or Confederacy, could be allowed even for the moment:* and no negotiation could be entered on, except on the preliminary assurance, that submission would follow; and the acceptance of the laws and constitution of the United States—the proclamations of Lincoln—and the abolition of slavery. And what a spectacle was here presented. In the very moment when he was thus arrogantly *dictating as a conqueror*, the terms which would be granted, Lincoln interspersed the occasion with one of those rude and brutal exhibitions of buffoonery, which has made him famous, as the chief of Baboons.

These Yankee despatches say our Commissioners were into a fit of merriment over the exhibition. It is scarce credible. But if it be true, it shows how the exquisite mimicry of an ape, may disturb the most solemn occasions.

The whole matter is now before our countrymen. Are the people of North Carolina prepared to submit—to grovel in the dust—and find their privileges of life, property, honor and liberty in the leniency of Abraham Lincoln, William H. Seward, and the Yankee nation. If this be so, then the "spirit of the game cock" is dead in the land; and the mothers of North Carolina have breeded *dunghills*.

Enthusiasm in Defence of the Country.

ALL PARTIES CO OPERATING.

General Conciliation and Harmony, and Devotion to the Cause.

Four grand and imposing assemblies have been held in Richmond during this week, in which the popular voice has been unanimous and enthusiastic, for the maintenance of the war, until independence is achieved.

On Monday night, the *Examiner* says: "A monster mass meeting in the African Church"—was held. Ten thousand people gathered together—and resolutions, breathing the most earnest defiance to the foe, were passed. Governor Smith and President Davis addressed the multitude. We publish the speech of the latter to-day. It was tremendously cheered; and its sentiments are worthy its author.

On Thursday, three war meetings were held, in like numbers, and with like unanimity, vigor and enthusiasm. That on Thursday night exceeded all others. Hunter, Gilmer, Baldwin, Oldham and others—men representing all political parties—were rallying the people to the common cause.

The fires are lighted. They will spread. They will burn into a bright flame of patriotism. They will consume all gloom and despondency; and light up hope and courage, throughout the land.

How the Yankee Treats the Negro.

NEGRO PRIVILEGES IN PHILADELPHIA.—The patrons of the city passenger railways in Philadelphia voted on the question—"Shall colored people ride in the cars?" The *Inquirer* of the 31st says:

The vote up to the hour of closing the trips last night was largely in favor of white persons riding inside the cars and the exclusion of the blacks. The vote on one of the lines at noon yesterday stood four thousand opposed and one hundred and sixty in favor of the question. Votes will continue to be deposited during the present week, that all may have an opportunity of depositing their vote as their feelings may dictate.

Thus the poor blacks in Philadelphia are denied even the privilege of riding in the cars, while their brethren are forced into the Yankee armies, and rushed on fortifications with bayonets behind them.

In what Southern State are negroes forbidden to ride in the cars?

The Yankee press does not exhibit its usual cunning in the jubilation it makes over the reported intention of the Confederate Government to employ negro troops. Its rhapsodies have an artificial look. It is evident to the most superficial observer that there is nothing it so much dreads as precisely that thing which it pretends to be so glad of. If it really anticipated such advantages to the Federal cause from this measure, it would remain mute, and permit us to go ahead and make the blunder. Private accounts from Yankeedom represent that the real sentiment upon the subject is very different from that expressed in the newspapers.

The Yankees have often declared that the negro soldiers in their army fight better than their own troops. Why, then, should they be delighted with the prospect of having their best troops matched by men of their own color? They affect to suppose that they will not fight equally well on the Confederate side, but they know that stronger motives can be brought to bear on them to fight well on that side than the other. They pretend to believe that Southern white soldiers will not permit their servants to assist them in defending their lives and property from robbers, burglars and murderers. But they are only whistling to keep their courage up. They do not believe a word they say, and are trembling in their boots at the thing they pretend to laugh at.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

DEATH OF GENERAL J. H. WINDER.—We regret to learn that this distinguished officer died suddenly at Florence, South Carolina, on Monday night, the 6th instant, about the time when the cars left for this place. He was probably travelling upon some public business. We have no particulars, but are inclined to believe that the General died of appoplexy.

The deceased was a native of Maryland, and an officer of the old army. When the war broke out he promptly cast his fate with the South, and adhered to her fortunes with unabated zeal and fidelity up to the time of his sudden and lamented death.

TELEGRAPHIC.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Enthusiastic War Meeting in Richmond.

THE FIRES OF 1861 REKINDLED.

Speeches by Senator Hunter, Secretary Benjamin, Mr. Gilmer, of N. C., etc.

RICHMOND, Feb. 9.—A great war meeting was held at the African Church to day. The building was crowded an hour before the time fixed for the meeting. Thousands were unable to gain admittance. The assemblage was addressed in stirring speeches by Senator Hunter, Sheffey, Speaker of the House Delegates, Secretary Benjamin and Gilmer of North Carolina.—It adjourned until 7 o'clock.

Another impromptu meeting was held at two o'clock in the hall of the House of Delegates and addressed by Goode, Funston and Baldwin of the Virginia Delegation in Congress. The deportment of the people indicated a full acceptance of the continuance of the war forced upon them by the refusal of Lincoln to negotiate for peace.

The following resolutions, submitted by Sheffey were heartily applauded.

1st. *Resolved*, That events which have occurred during the progress of the war have but confirmed our original determination to strike for our independence; and that with the blessing of God we will never lay down our arms until it shall have been won.

2. *Resolved*, That, as we believe our resources sufficient for this purpose, we do not doubt but that we shall conduct the war successfully; and to that issue, and we hereby invoke the people, in the name of the holiest of all causes, to spare neither blood nor treasure in its maintenance and support.

3. *Resolved* That we tender our thanks to our soldiers for their noble efforts in behalf of our country, its rights and liberties, and take this occasion to assure them that no effort of ours shall be spared, to assist them in maintaining the great cause to which we hereby devote ourselves, and our all.

Official from Gen. Lee.

RICHMOND, Feb. 8.—An official despatch from Gen. Lee says: The enemy made no advance from their position on Hatchers' Run yesterday; his skirmishers, however, were pushed forward against some points of our lines, but made no attack.

From Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, Feb. 8.—There is no fighting to-day, and quiet once more is resumed. The enemy still maintains his position on Hatcher's Run, and the lines have thereby been extended, but not advanced. Gen Sorrel was wounded in the lungs, but the wound is not considered mortal; Col. Houston, of Virginia, was killed in the fight Monday. Our loss will not reach five hundred. Enemies loss estimated treble that number. The dead have all been buried, and the wounded bought from the field. The enemy is erecting observatories on our right. There was heavy cannonading yesterday afternoon, caused by our artillery shelling the enemies lines; both sides were engaged to-day strengthening new lines.

The President and Mr. Seddon.

RICHMOND, Feb. 8.—Correspondence published in the Sentinel this morning of the President and Mr. Seddon, shows that the latter resigned the position of Secretary of War in consequence of a resolution adopted by the Virginia delegation in Congress, advising Legislation as to Cabinet by relieving all present heads. Seddon says after such expression of opinion he could no longer fill the position with full measure of usefulness to the President or Confederacy. The President in reply expressed his warm personal regard, and official confidence in Mr. Seddon,—He discussed at considerable length the relations between Executive and Legislative departments of the government. He presented the right and privileges of the Confederate Congress in contrast with the British Parliament. Mr. Seddon in reply expresses his concurrence in the views represented by the President, but adheres to his purpose of resigning.

Confederate Congress.

RICHMOND, Feb 8.—In the House, the Senate resolutions of thanks to Capt in Semmes, were unanimously concurred in. The bill for the employment of free negroes and slaves was referred to the committee of conference. The tax bill with substitutes thereon, heretofore considered in secret session, was further discussed in the committee of the whole, until the hour of adjournment. Nothing important done in the Senate.

RICHMOND, Feb. 9.—The Senate adjourned to-day immediately after the journal was read.

In the House the Senate bill authorizing the appointment of a Commissary General, with the rank of Brig. General, passed. During its consideration, Mr. Baldwin remarked that, as the chairman of the committee recently engaged in a searching investigation, he and the whole committee arrived at the conclusion that the present Commissary General had conducted the business of his office with a degree of system, energy and forecast, exhibited by few officers.

Mr. Miles said if Northrop could not command success, which was an indispensable qualification at this time he should give way to some fortunate person.

The tax bill was further considered. Pending a motion to strike out a hundred per cent additional to the present tax and substitute one per cent, was rejected by a large majority.

Northern News.

RICHMOND, Feb. 8.—New York papers of the 6th contain a voluminous telegram from Washington relative to the result of the conference at Fortress Monroe.

A special dispatch to the Times says: Lincoln informed the Commissioners at every point that recognition was utterly out of the question; that the United States could stop the war only on condition precedent that the authority of the National Government should be recognized and obeyed over the whole territory of the United States. This point conceded, he assured them that upon every other matter of difference they would be treated with the utmost liberality.

Another telegram says Stephens was the most liberal of the rebel deputation. His theory was, that if we would but treat with them as an independent nation, that such agreement could be had as would, practically, unite North and South.

A special to the Tribune says: Stephens surpassed all his old exhibitions of shrewdness and force in putting forth the demands of the Confederacy. At the conclusion of one of his points, Lincoln, leaning forward, interrupted him with "that reminds me of a little story. A man in Illinois"—the commissioners instantly jumped up in warm merriment. After the story, resumed, and pursued to the end, his statement of terms, on which he thought the rebels would be willing to stop the war. He proposed and urged his crafty scheme of temporary recognition. But on recognition absolutely or temporary, the three commissioners stood like rocks. The result of the conference is, the union of all parties in power of a vigorous prosecution of the war.

Fernando Wood took the war path Saturday; Cox, and other democrats, will take it to-morrow.

Gold opened in New York Monday, at 204.

Foster has been superseded by Gilmore, in command of the District of South Carolina.

The Legislature of West Virginia has passed the bill abolishing slavery.

From South Carolina.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 9.—A dispatch to-day says the enemy are in front of the encorstine near New Bridge, to Duncan Bridge. The main force is said to be near the Railroad; skirmishing to-day at Bermaker's Bridge. Our troops are guarding the Railroad bridge. The enemy show no disposition to force a crossing.

A despatch from Gen. Wheeler, dated 3 p. m. 8th says: A large column of the enemy's infantry struck the Railroad at Grahams, some was moving to strike it between Graham and Blackville.

Kilpatrick is at Blackville, with three brigades.

Speech of Secretary Benjamin.

RICHMOND, Feb. 10.—Secretary Benjamin in the course of his speech yesterday, stated what followed the interview between the President and Blair. The President gave him a letter, as follows: "Sir: I put down now in writing what I said to you in words. I am ready to confer for peace, if I had assurance that any Commissioners would be sent to meet, and treat with them. I would send Commissioners, for the purpose and design of obtaining peace for our two countries. "The answer of Lincoln to this note was. "As you have showed me a note, brought with you from Richmond, you may say to Davis that I will see any informal agents to secure peace to our one country." Mr. Benjamin said he believed, when Blair first came to Richmond, there was an opening for some arrangement which might lead to ultimate peace. Had the enemy been of the same mind, he still believed there might have been some ground upon which they would have settled the question. Mr. Benjamin advocated the immediate employment of negroes to reinforce our army, and was highly applauded by the meeting.

Confederate Congress.

RICHMOND Feb. 10.—The House adopted the joint resolution to adjourn *sine die* on the 28th. It concurred in the Senate resolution of thanks to Mr. Lancaster, owner the yatch "Deerhound."

Mr. Barksdale submitted a bill, providing for the employment of negro troops, and the motion to reject the bill was lost—yeas 21, nays 53. The bill was then referred to a select committee. The tax bill was further discussed till adjournment.

In the Senate, the House resolutions of adjournment were rejected by a tie. During the debate, Messrs. Wigfall and Maxwell expressed unqualified opposition to negro troops; subsequently, Mr. Oldham introduced a bill to provide for raising two hundred thousand negro troops, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. The House exempting bill was debated and amended before final action. The Senate then went into secret session.

RICHMOND, Jan. 11.—The Senate passed a bill changing the time of holding the election for Representatives of Congress in Missouri to the 1st Monday in November.

Mr. Burnett introduced a bill to abolish the office of provost marshal, except within the lines of the army. The Senate then went into secret session.

In the House a communication from the President was received stating the number of Quartermasters and Assistant Quartermasters in the Confederate service to be 1316 on post duty; and 318 tax-in kind.

The Tax Bill was further considered until adjournment.

Northern News.

RICHMOND, Feb. 10.—Northern papers, including the evening edition of the Baltimore *American* of the 8th, have been received. They admit considerable loss in the battle at Hatcher's Run, but claim the Confederate loss was heavy. The object of the movement not developed.

Mr. Foote arrived in New York on Tuesday. He is still in custody. His destination is reported to be in military prison. He refused to take the oath, and expresses a desire to emigrate to Sonora.

From Charleston.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 10.—A force of the enemy, believed to be from two to four thousand strong, landed at Grimball's, on James Island, about 8 o'clock this morning, and drove in our pickets. Some skirmishing took place, but no general engagement. The enemy are making active demonstrations at various points, but it is believed to be a feint.

A force attacked our troops on the Saltkatchee, this morning but were easily repulsed.—They also advanced upon the Charleston road near the Blue House, and opened with artillery, but made no impression on our lines. Intelligence received to-day reports the enemy as crossed the Edisto at Burnaker's bridge. The enemy are reported to be moving on Augusta.

Later From the North.

RICHMOND, Feb. 11.—Northern papers of the 9th have been received. In the late fight beyond Petersburg, the casualties in the 5th corps is estimated at about 500; in the 2nd corps, 250.

Arrangements for a general exchange of all prisoners have been accomplished.

A terrible conflagration occurred in Philadelphia on Wednesday morning, two thousand barrels of Coal Oil were burned, and fifty dwellings consumed. The oil poured through the streets spreading destruction on all sides, and a number of people were roasted alive in the streets.

The draft of New York will probably be postponed.

From Wilmington.

WILMINTON, Feb. 13.—There was considerable skirmishing on our lines at Sugar Loaf, on Saturday. Three attacks, in force, were made, which were handsomely repulsed. The enemy lost considerably during the attack. The enemy's whole fleet opened on Hoke's left. Our casualties were about 20.

On the same day one monitor threw several shells at Fort Anderson, killing one and wounding one. All quiet since.

General Lee's Orders.

RICHMOND, Feb. 13.—Gen. Lee has issued General Orders, offering pardon to all deserters or other men, improperly absent, who return to their commands within twenty days from the publication of this order, or at the Headquarters of the department in which they may be.

No general amnesty will again be granted; and those who refuse to accept pardon now offered, or shall hereafter desert, shall suffer such punishment as courts may impose; and no application for clemency will be entertained.

The order closes as follows: Taking new resolution from the fate which our enemies intend for us let every man devote all his energies to the common defence. Our resources, wisely and vigorously employed, are ample and with the brave army, sustained by a determined and united people, success, with God's assistance, cannot be doubtful. The advantages of the enemy will have but little value, if we do not permit them to impair our resolution. Let us then, oppose constancy to adversity, fortitude to suffering, courage to danger, with firm assurance that He who gave freedom to our fathers, will bless the efforts of their children to preserve it.

Northern News.

RICHMOND, Feb. 13.—The northern papers of the 10th contain very little of interest. The St. Albans raiders are to be delivered up to the United States.

Operations against Wilmington would soon be commenced.

Lincoln's report of the conference at Fortress Monroe, would be submitted on the 10th. The news of the peace movement caused much talk in England, and had a depressing effect on the cotton market.

Gold unchanged.

Schedule of Prices for North Carolina.

The Commissioners of Appraisement for the State of North Carolina present the following Schedule of Prices to the several Purchasing Agents for the necessary supplies, with reasonably advanced percentage to compensate for the depreciation of the currency by order of Government at the prices paid above those of the late schedule. They earnestly hope that there now being no excuse for holding back the products so necessary to the supply of the army that farmers and others will come forward with alacrity and offer all that they can possibly spare from their own consumption to the aid of that army, which now at last is to be recognized as our only saviour from the ruthless and grasping despotism of our barbarous enemy!

Apples, dried good, peeled, per bush. 28 lbs.		$10 00
" unpeeled, per bush of 28 lbs.		7 50
Axes, with handles, each,		18 50
" without handles, each,		18 00
Bacon, per pound, hog round,		4 50
Beans, white or cowpeas, per bush 60 pounds,		10 50
Brandy, apple, per gallon,		10 00
" peach, per gallon,		10 00
Beef, fresh, nett per pound,		2 00
" gross, per pound,		1 00
" salted, per pound,		2 50
Candles, tallow, per pound,		5 00
" adamantine, per pound,		10 00
Chains, trace, per pair,		16 00
Cloth, woolen, for soldiers' clothes, ¾ yard wide, 10 oz to yard, and *pro rata* as to greater or less weight or width, per yard		15 00
Cotton, raw, per lb.,		2 50
Coffee, Rio, per pound		12 50
Corn, bushelled, per bush., 70 lbs.		12 00
Corn Meal, sacks not included, per bush of 50 pounds,		12 20
Drills, cotton, ¾ yd. wide 3-yards to pound, per yd.		2 80
Flour, extra family, per bbl 196 lbs.,		100 00
" extra superfine, per bbl. 196 pounds,		90 00
" superfine, per bbl. 196 lbs		80 00
" fine, per barrel of 196 lbs.		70 00
Fodder, baled, per 100 pounds,		8 00
" unbaled, per 100 pounds,		7 50
Hats, wool each,		8 00
Hay, baled, per 100 pounds,		8 00
" unbaled, per 100 pounds,		7 50
Hides, dry, extra, per pound,		5 00
" " "		0 00
" green, per pound,		2 50
Horses, artillery, 1st class, per head,		1500 00
" artillery, 2d class, per head		1200 00
House rent, per room per month,		40 00
Iron, Pig, No. 1, per ton, 2000 lbs		350 00
" " " 2, " " 2000 lbs		314 00
" " " 3, " " 2000 lbs		278 00
" Bloom, " " 2000 lbs		710 00
" Smith's square or round, per ton of 2000 pounds,		1030 00
" serviceable railroad, per ton of 2240 pounds,		400 00
Jeans, wool, domestic, per yard,		15 00
Kettles, camp, iron per pound,		60
Lumber, good, per 1,000 feet,		60 00
Lard, per pound,		4 50
Leather, sole per pound,		10 00
" upper per pound,		12 00
" harness per pound,		12 00
Molasses, sorghum, per gallon,		15 00
Mules, 1st class, per head,		1 500 00
" 2d class per head,		1,200 00
" 3d class per head,		800 00
Mechanics, 1st class, per day, rations by government,		10 00
" 2nd class per day rations by government,		6 00
Nails, per keg,		200 00
Oats, sheaf, baled, per 100 lbs.		10 00
" sheaf, unbaled, per 100 lbs.		9 25
" shelled, per bushel,		8 00
Osnaburgs, cotton ¾ yard wide, 7 oz. to yard, per yard,		2 50
" cotton, ¼ yard wide, 8 oz. to yard, per yard,		2 75
Onions, per bushel,		12 00
Oxen work, 1st quality, per yoke,		1,500 00
" " 2d quality, per yoke,		1000 00
Peas, cow, per bushel of 60 lbs		15 00
Potatoes, Irish, per bushel of 60 lbs.		8 00
" sweet, per bushel of 60 lbs.		8 00
Peaches dried peeled, per bushel of 38 lbs.		12 50
" unpeeled, per bushel of 38 lbs.		10 00
Pork, fresh, nett, per pound,		3 50
" salted, per pound,		3 90
" gross,		2 60
Pasturage, 1st quality, near town, per head, per month,		8 00
" common, near town, per head per month,		5 00
" 1st quality, in the country, per head per month,		7 00
" common, in the country, per head, per month,		4 00
Quinine, good, per ounce,		80 00
Rice, new, per pound,		1 50
" old, per pound,		1 10
Rye, good, per bushel of 56 lbs.		12 00
Rosin, per bbl. of 280 lbs.		2 00
" in bulk of 280 lbs.		50
Sacks, two bushels, osnaburgs, each,		6 00
Shirting, cotton, ¾ yard wide, 4¼ yds. to pound, per yard,		1 75
" cotton, ¼ yard wide, 3¼ yard to pound, per yard,		1 10
Cotton stripes, 3 yards to lb, per yard,		2 75
Salt, Coast, per bushel of 50 lbs.,		40 00
" Liverpool, per bushel of 50 pounds,		50 00
" Virginia, per bushel of 50 pounds,		45 00
Steel, cast, per pound,		10 00
Shoes, army, per pair,		25 00
Shoe thread, flax, per pound,		10 00
Socks, soldiers' wool, per pair,		4 00
Sheep, fat, per head,		50 00
Sugar, brown, common, per pound,		5 00
Soap, hard, per pound,		2 00
" soft, per pound,		1 25
Shucks, baled, 100 lbs.,		8 00
Shorts, good, per bushel of 22 lbs.,		1 75
Ship stuff, good, per bushel of 37 lbs,		2 40
Tea, black, per pound,		10 00
" green, per pound,		18 00
Tent cloth, cotton, 10 oz. to yard, per yard,		2 50
Tobacco, No. 1, extra,		3 00
" No. 1,		2 50
" No 2,		1 75
" Lugs,		1 25
Tallow, clean, per pound,		4 50
Vinegar, cider, per gallon,		4 00
" " manufactured, per gallon,		2 00
Whiskey, good, per gallon,		10 00
Wheat, good, per bushel of 60 lbs.		15 00
" bran, per bushel of 17 lbs.		1 50
Wheat straw, baled, per 100 lbs.		2 75
" " unbaled, per 100 lbs.		2 00
Wagons, wood axle, 4 horse, new, each,		700 00
" wood axle, 2 horse, new, each,		500 00
Yarn, cotton, per bunch of 5 lbs.		15 00
Wool, washed, per pound,		12 00
" unwashed, per per pound		10 00

HIRE OF LABOR, TEAMS, WAGONS AND HORSES.

Baling long forage, per hundred lbs.,	1 00
Shelling and bagging corn, sacks furnished by government, per bushel	25
Hire of one horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by owner, per day,	18 00
Hire of two horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by government, per day	12 00
Hire of four horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by owner, per day,	30 00
Hire of four horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by government, per day,	20 00
Hire of six horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by owner, per day,	36 00
Hire of six horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by government, per day,	24 00
Hire of laborer, rations furnished by owner, per day,	6 00
Hire of laborer, rations furnished by government, per day,	4 00
Hire of laborer, rations furnished by owner, per month,	110 00
Hire of laborer, rations furnished by government, per month,	65 00
Hire of horse, per day,	4 00

The Commissioners respectfully suggest that if it be found practicable, the planters should be allowed to retain a fourth part of their corn, to be sold at market rates, to pay for their necessary plantation supplies, which they have to purchase at high market prices. They earnestly call upon the farmers to bring forward their corn now so necessary to the support of the army in their immediate front, and which alone will prevent the loss to the enemy, of all their crops, stock, negroes, &c., &c. The commissioners would also recommend that the impressment should be universal and uniform, leaving out no one.

For the information of all persons concerned, we publish the following instructions, with the hope that they will be strictly obeyed:

"No officer, or agent, shall impress the necessary supplies which any person may have for the consumption of himself, his family employees, slaves, or to carry on his ordinary mechanical, manufacturing or agricultural employments."

The next meeting of the Board will be held in the Senate Chamber, in the City of Raleigh, on Monday, the 27th day of April next, unless sooner changed. Impressing agents must furnish good and satisfactory reasons for disapprovals on appeals, or the award of local appraisers will be approved. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the Board, Raleigh, N. C.

(Signed) H. K BURGWYN, Garysburg, N. C.
R. V. BLACKSTOCK, Statesville, N. C.

Com'rs Appraisement for State of N. C.
February 6th 1865.

COUNTY TRUSTEE.

We are requested to announce LYNN ADAMS, Esq. a candidate for the office of County Trustee, for Wake county.

If elected he will endeavor to attend faithfully to the duties of the office.

feb 6-wt&dstawtde

COUNTY TRUSTEE.

We are requested to announce Mr. J. F. HUTCHINS as a candidate for re-election as County Trustee, at the approaching February Term of Wake County Court.

feb 4-d3tawtd.

WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO

Announce Capt. L. E. RIGGAN as a candidate for the office of County Trustee, at the next February term for Wake County. If elected he pledges himself to a faithful discharge of his duties.

feb 1-w3t*

GLEN ANNA FEMALE SEMINARY, THOMASVILLE N. C.

THE next Session begins January 25th, 1865. Board $7 per month, payable in provisions at old prices, or $150 per month, Confederate money, in advance. Tuition—English Branches, $50; Music, $50; Latin or French $25.

Each young lady will furnish one pair of sheets and pillow cases.

J. W. THOMAS, Pres't.

dec 21-12tw6t*

RUNAWAY.

Taken up and committed to jail, in Concord, Cabarrus county, N. C., a negro boy who says his name is JOHN SMITH, and says he belongs to Eliza Ellison and William Canada, of Wake county, and that he was purchased of Thos. Smith, of Lincoln county, about 5 years ago. Said boy is about 20 years old, 5 feet 5 inches high, slow of speech, yellow complexion, had on white cotton pants, dove colored cassimere coat; and says he was hired last year to the High Shoals Iron Manufacturing Company.

The owner is hereby notified to come forward prove property, pay charges and take him away.

N. SLOUGH Sheriff
of Cabarrus county, N. C.

feb 1-w6m

D. C. MURRAY. J. A. MOORE. W. J. HARRISON

D. C. MURRAY & CO.,

GENERAL

AUCTION AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

FAYETTEVILLE STREET RALEIGH, N. C.

Having regularly commenced business, solicit consignments. They will attend promptly to the purchase and sale of all Goods, Stocks, &c., &c.

REFERENCES.

C. Dewey, Cash., W. H. Jones, Cash., Raleigh.
Messrs. Harris & Rowell, Wilmington.
J. H. Lindsay, Cashier, Greensboro'.
D. A. Davis, Cashier, Salisbury.
T. W. Dewey, Cashier, Charlotte.
A. McLean, Cashier, Fayetteville.
James E. Cuthbert, Cashier, Petersburg, Va.
Branch, Morton & Co., Richmond, Va.

feb 8-w6t

NORTH CAROLINA,

JOHNSTON COUNTY.

COURT OF PLEAS AND QUARTER SESSIONS.

November Term, 1864.

JOHN G. GULLEY,
vs.
Gaston Parrish, Augustus Parrish, Nathan Boykin, O. L. Dodd.

Scire Facias to revive Judgment.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that the above named defendants are non-residents, *it is ordered*, That publication be made for them to appear at February Term, 1865, of this Court, to plead in the above entitled to suit, or judgment according to the scire facias will be ordered.

J. H. PARKER,
January 1st, 1865. County Court Clerk.

jan 1-d6w*7feb.

SCOTCH AND HIGH-TOAST SNUFF.

The "DIXIE LADY" Scotch Snuff, is manufactured by CLARK & MILLER, Graham, N. C.

This finely levigated Snuff is manufactured of the best materials, with a determination to make it the best dentrifice now offered to the public, great care being taken to have all the ingredients free from dirt or other impurities.

It is prepared under the immediate management and supervision of a careful person who has had much experience in the employ of the LORILLARDS, in their Snuff Factory, in New York City.

The HIGH-TOAST is a Salt Snuff. Also, put up in packages of half pound each, in boxes of fifty pounds, the justly celebrated old "STONEWALL" Smoking Tobacco, and CIGARS of the finest quality that is put up in the Confederate States, by

H. J. B. CLARK.

jan 18-d2taw6w

THE CONFEDERATE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1865.

The whole affair of F. P. Blair, and son, turns out to be a Yankee trick, gotten up by that shrewdest of tricksters, W. H. Seward.

Every one will remember how unscrupulously this same paragon of an unprincipled diplomat, tricked the French government in the matter of the Maxilian Empire. At the last session of the Federal Congress, the House of Representatives passed a resolution recognizing the Monroe doctrine and expressing the determination to maintain it; and lest this exposition of a national purpose might give umbrage to the Emperor of the French, Seward dispatched a trusty explanation, that this was only effervescence of the House of Representatives—a passionate and thoughtless body; that the Senate and Executive, controlled the foreign policy of the government; and the action of the House was not to be taken as an evidence of what they would do. Then, said the Emperor, you will send a minister to Maximilian?—This was scarce a poser to the adroit negotiator. Most certainly, said he. And there upon, our vessels, which we had the permission of the French government to build in French ports, were locked tighter up. No sooner, however, had Mr. Seward nicely arranged this matter, than he set to work to make his promises impossible of execution. He got together his instruments in the House of Representatives, and whispered in their ear: "Now, when the appropriation for a Minister to the Emperor of Mexico comes up, do you strike that out of the bill," and it was done. Whereupon, with a face of such extended length as the heir of a large fortune would put on at the funeral of his departed ancestor, this artful machinator presents himself to Louis Napoleon, with the deepest and most pungent regrets, that an obstinate assembly interposes in the way of his most ardent wishes, but he promises that the obstacle shall be removed. And, in the meantime, chuckles over the success of the plot, his only aim being, to save time in which to "suppress the rebellion."

Like this—but more unscrupulous—more unprincipled and more devilish—was his late cheat about peace negotiations. His design was to have passed the amendments to the United States Constitution; by which slavery was to be abolished. The legislation did not move fast enough; and so he led Blair to believe (or else he took Blair into the plan) that negotiations, were to be commenced at Richmond. Messengers were to come and go. Conferences were to be asked with our government; and the common rumor was to be afloat that peace would ensue on the basis of reconstruction, with the constitution as it might be. By this unmitigated deception, he succeeded in hastening the passage of the amendments through the Federal Congress, with that indecent hurry, and amid the vulgar scenes which we have heretofore published.—What was it to him that he had employed the holy subject of peace as the basis of his deception; or that he was tampering with the hopes of the bereaved and afflicted in both nations. What, to him, was it, that he designed a deception upon our government and people, when he invited a conference to induce us to send Commissioners. It was his element—the food of his nature—and in keeping with the character of the people whose servant he is.

Fortunately for the cause of truth and right, his weapon has turned upon himself.—Our people have become united. No more discord will interrupt our harmony. No more gloom and despondency are to be encouraged. Men know now, that there is no alternative but dishonor, and the loss of all; that the terms offered are only such as a conqueror might extend to his subjugated enemy in the last gasp. The idea that many of our people had, that tolerable terms would be given them is vanished, and the universal sentiment is, that *death* were better than the acceptance of terms offered. There is another thing taught us by this manifestation of the false and corrupt character of our adversary. It is this: that whatever his promises might be—even if they were at all liberal—we should have no reason whatever to expect their fulfilment.—Happy for us, these arch-deceivers have not deemed it to be their policy to make us any promises sufficiently gracious to enlist our attention. On the contrary, they seemed to consider us already their own; and not worthy even of a parley, as though they had their feet upon our neck, they metted out to us only the condition of a conqueror.

In this, there was no deception.

From South Carolina.

A dispatch appears in this morning's paper, from Charleston, which informs us that one of Sherman's columns had reached the railroad at Graham's; another was moving to strike between Graham's and Blackville, while Kilpatrick, with three brigades of cavalry, had already arrived at Blackville.—These stations are on the road between Branchville and Augusta; and, consequently, all communications by railroad with Georgia and the Gulf States are hereby cut off.—Communications are still had with Charleston, via Branchville, but will very probably be closed; as it was reported (says the Wilmington *Journal*) that Sherman was in a few miles of the road, west of Branchville, on Sunday last.

We think it likely a battle will occur very soon, in the neighborhood of Branchville.

We append below a table of stations from various points in South Carolina:

From Branchville to Charleston 62 miles.
" Branchville to Kingsville 45 miles.
" Branchville to Florence 108 miles.
" Branchville to Columbia 68 miles.
" Branchville to Augusta 75 miles.
" Branchville to Wilmington 216 miles.
" Branchville to Charlotte 174 miles.
" Charleston to Florence 102 miles.
" Wilmington to Florence 107 miles.

[From the Richmond Dispatch.]

Mass Meeting in Richmond.

At a few minutes past 12 o'clock, Mr. R M T. Hunter, President of the meeting, attended by Mr. J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State; Mr. Joseph Mayo, Mayor of Richmond; Captain Semmes, Confederate States Navy; the Hon. Messrs. Semmes, Henry, Maxwell, and others, and the Vice-Presidents of the meeting, entered the building. As they ascended the stand, the Armory Band, which was in attendance, played the Marseillaise Hymn. At the conclusion of the air, Mr. Hunter, the President, requested that no call might be made for speakers, as their names would be duly announced in the order in which they were to address the meeting.

Mr. Hunter then said:

Having ordered you to order, it is proper that I should explain the object and purposes of this meeting. We stand here to consider the most momentous public issue that ever agitated a nation. One in which is involved the very life and being of a people, the existence of their laws and government, their life, liberty and honor. Whatever is sacred in human affections, or dear to the heart of men, is involved in this contest; and may God grant us the wisdom to devise, and the power to execute, those measures which, under His hand, shall effect our deliverence in this great crisis of our affairs. We are not responsible for the lives that have been given up in this contest, and our skirts are clear of the blood which has been shed. We entered it to maintain the rights of self government—a right which should have been as dear to our enemies as to us. It is a great American idea—the growth of American soil—and should, in their eyes, be as sacred as it is to us. For our long years we have been engaged in a war, the like of which has not been seen in modern times; the only approximations to which were the wars of Wallestein and Attila and the Thirty Years' War of Germany; and now, after these years of waste and destruction, we have been solemnly informed by the President of the United States that there can be no peace except upon the conditions of laying down our arms and absolute submission to more than rebels, and submit to laws confiscating our property, and awarding the death penalty to our citizens. Nor is this all. We are required to submit to an amendment, adopted by the United States Constitution, to turn loose two thousands of slaves in our midst, without restraint and without education which they would require for self-preservation. If anything more was wanting to stir the blood, it was furnished when we were told that the United States could not consent to entertain any proposition coming from us as a people that Government which makes treaties with the meanest and weakest of nations, tells us—a nation of seven millions of men, with arms in their hands—that it cannot entertain any proposition coming from rebels. Even upon the theory that we were rebels, upon what authority could they refuse to treat with us? There has been no civil war of any magnitude which has not been terminated by treating. In 1778, the British Government sent three commissioners to the rebel colonies, authorized to treat even with any "association of individuals," and to provide for a truce.—It has been a habit with all strong governments, after a war is over, and after it has vindicated its power, to render the future as little gloomy, and its yoke as easy to its subjects, as possible; but nothing of this sort comes from the United States. Nothing comes from it to soothe our feelings, nothing to alleviate the terms of a settlement, if it were possible for such a settlement to be made. It would seem possible that Lincoln might have offered something to a people with two hundred thousand soldiers, and such soldiers, [applause] under arms. Could it be probable, to him, that we could go into the United States Government as rebels, assuming the responsibility of all the blood that has been shed; confessing that we have kept up a wicked and useless war; submitting to laws confiscating our property and taking the lives of our people? It is true, he said, that those laws would be administered by him in a spirit of kindness; but when did men ever give to one man the power over their lives and their property, and all they hold dear, trusting to his spirit of kindness and divesting themselves of the power to resist his tyranny? [Cries of "Never," "never."] And it is to be remembered, that wherever we go into the Union as a conquered people, we give up the laws of the United States, and must take such as they choose to make for us; and we go in without representation in the making of those laws, for Mr. Lincoln told us—told me—that while we could send representatives to the Yankee Congress, yet it rested with that Congress to say whether they would receive them or not. Thus we would cast everything away and go to them as a subdued, subjugated and degraded people, to be held in subjection by their sovereignty.

Nor is all told yet. More than 3,000,000 slaves are to be let loose and $1,500,000,000 worth of property destroyed as one fell swoop. These slaves are to wander about and become the pests of the land. The Congress would be constantly interfering between the white and the black man. The laws would be made by a Congress hostile to us, and any attempt to make these shiftless wanderers useful would be interfered with. If, under the old government, they interfered with our domestic institutions, what would become of us if we were helpless in their hands holding the power to arbitrate in the questions concerning us. They would raise questions about the State laws, and soon sweep away any barrier we might erect for the protection of social order and industry in our midst. But, fellow-citizens, I will not attempt now to draw a picture of such a state of things which must loom up before the eyes of every man who considers it. It would require a pencil dipped in blood to paint its gloom. I pass this to the question of what is to become of the slaves. We know that in large districts of the country they have been taken away by them and the women left. Who is to support them? Under our system they were provided for and happy; under their system they must perish. That system will destroy the whole negro race by this contact. In the fierce competition for food between the white and the negro, the latter will be blasted like human life before the burning sirocco, and vanish like the mist before the sun. We drew the sword not for ourselves alone, but also for his sake, and the world, which stands coldly looking on, will find that the men whom they have excluded from their sympathy are the hope of the black race. It was the exclamation of a celebrated French woman, "Oh, Liberty, what crimes are committed in thy name!" and we may parody by exclaiming, Oh, Philanthropy, how much misery is caused in thy name! Well may the negro rise up and pronounce judgment against it. Fellow-citizens, I have presented to future we are to endure if we are reduced to submission.

I turn now to that we are to gain with our success—Independence, Liberty, our women and children—everything dear to man. [Wild cheering.] Nay, more than this; we will cover the name of our country with glory—glory such as was never known before. I venture to say that there was never such a contest, and never such glory, as we may win from it. We have the world against us. It has been said that its parallel may be found in the Dutch Republic; but they had the sea open to them and the French and English as allies. Our forefathers had the French to aid them. We stand alone, presenting the spectacle of a brave people, contesting, foot by foot, with double their numbers, excluded, commercially and sentimentally, from the world.

With our success we shall establish a system of government that shall challenge the respect of the world. We shall solve the problem of the extension of the Anglo-Saxon race to the country south of us, and show that the white and black races may be extended together. Then shall the Confederate soldier return from the field, his sword dripping, and his brow crowned with laurels, a hero, whom after ages will venerate, and who will be an example to generations to come. Are not these considerations to nerve every man to his duty—to unite every heart and hand in the country? I will not hold out the delusive hope that the struggle shall be easy or the sacrifices light. But in such interests it is better to lose life than fail. [Great applause.] Property I throw out of consideration. What is it to us? If we fail it will be in the hands of a ruthless foe, who spares nothing. I trust and believe in the success of our cause. If our people exhibit the proper spirit, they will bring forth the deserter from their caves; and skulkers [A voice—"Give it to 'em"], who are avoiding the perils of the field, will go hand in hand with the dangers of their countrymen. [Applause.] In war, as in religion, we must have works as well as faith. The man who desponds is half whipped. [Applause.] We must have faith in the determination of our country to suffer all and do all. If we determine upon that, I do not see why we cannot win our independence. In this spirit, a French general ordered the sounding of the Marseillaise, which changed a rout into victory. In this spirit, the ancients consulted the bodies of their animals, they sacrificed. In this, the Roman Emperor accepted the vision of the cross in the sky. I do have faith. I do not see, but I feel, that there is a righteous God in Heaven, who holds our destinies in his hand, and I do not believe He will allow us to be cast down and the wicked to prosper. [Applause.] I believe, with the help of Providence, that that army which stands as a triple bar of steel between us and subjugation will, eventually win. [A voice—"That's so."] It is time for croakers to hush. To despond is weakness.

SPEECH OF HON. J. P. BENJAMIN.

Hon. J. P Benjamin, Secretary of State of the Confederate States, was announced as the next speaker. He was greeted with rousing cheers, and spoke, in substance, as follows:

The number of persons composing this meeting, the cheers with which I hear you greet every expression of patriotic sentiment, show the defiance with which your breasts are swelling, and the loathing which all feel at the bare thought of the ignominy which an arrogant Government has proposed to you, that you should bend the knee, bow the neck, and meekly submit to the conqueror's yoke; and all give assurance that the fire of freedom burns unquenchably in your souls. How different from one short week ago! It seems as if some magician has been the charge. Then, despondency and hopeless depression was weighed upon us, when we were querulous, and as ready to turn our rebels, and submit to the enemy upon means to restore peace to the *two countries*."

That was all, except the confidential interview of Blair with the President, which I cannot relate in the presence of so many people. I believe, contrary to the honorable gentleman who has preceeded me, that when Blair came to Richmond there was an opportunity for suspending fighting and bloodshed, in which time measures might be taken for the restoration of peace; but none of us, for a moment, dreamed of reconstruction. Is it wonderful that our President, whose only defect is that he is too tender-hearted, should have yielded to the temptation of trying to stop the bloodshed of his countrymen, of which every drop seemed to come from his own heart? [Applause.] The Vice-President was confident of the feasibility of his own theory—which we were not—and what better could we do than send him to attempt to make a favorable impression upon the enemy? We knew its failure would be the signal for a grand uprising of the people, which was the only element necessary to success. We hear it now in the improved tone of public sentiment.

What is our present duty? We want means. Are they in the country? If so, they belong to the country, and not to the man who chances to hold them now. They belong, either to the Yankees or to the Confederate States. I would take every bale of cotton in the land. I have a few bales left in my distant Southern home, which is a free gift to my country. But why speak of myself? I speak for my noble State of Louisiana. Let me point you back to 1862, when the city of New Orleans fell under the domination of the enemy. As Farragut's fleet ascended the river, and rounded the crescent approaching the city, what greeted his eyes on that bright and balmy spring day? The air was murky with smoke—everything was lined with cotton burning upon the levee.—The citizens did not ask to whom it belonged; the Yankees wanted it, and they should not have it. But a few weeks ago, with full time for the citizens to prepare in advance, Sherman penetrated Savannah, and what was presented there? With a thousand plausible excuses of interested selfishness, the cotton was left, in the belief that the Yankees would give them something for it. This all now goes to the Yankees, who gloatingly said—not that we have got Savannah, but that "we have got eighteen million dollars' worth of cotton." And this, while on the banks of the Mississippi, and the waters bordering on my State, three hundred thousand bales of cotton were sacrificed to the cause. I now ask, has any man the right to hold a bale of cotton from his country? [No.] I say the same thing in regard to tobacco. Take all the cotton and tobacco, and make it the basis of means, without which, we cannot go on.—[Applause.] I want more. I want all the bacon—everything which can feed the soldiers—and I want it taken free gift to the country. Talk of rights! what right do the arrogant invaders leave you?

I want another thing. War is a game that cannot be played without men. [Cheers.] Where are the men? I am going to open my whole heart to you. Look to the trenches before Richmond. Is it not a shame that men who have sacrificed all in our defence should not be reinforced by all the means in our power? Is it any time now for antiquated patriotism to argue a refusal to send them aid, be it white or black? [A voice—"Put in the niggers"—and cheers.]

I will now call your attention to some figures, which I wish you to seriously ponder. In 1860, the South had 1,664,000 arms-bearing men. How many men have the Yankees sent against us? In 1861, 654,000; in 1862, 740,000; in 1863, 700,000; in 1864, they called out 1,500,000. Here you have the figures that they brought out 3,000,000 men, against 1,664,000 Confederates, who lived at the beginning of the war to draw the sword in their country's service. Our resources of white population have greatly diminished; but you had 680,000 black men of the same ages; and could Divine prophecy have told us of the fierceness of the enemy's death-grapple at our throats—could we have known what we now know, that Lincoln has confessed that without the 200,000 negroes which he stole from us he would be compelled to give up the contest, should we have entertained any doubt upon the subject? [A voice—"We will make him give it up yet."]

I feel that the time is rapidly coming on when the people will wonder that they ever doubted. Let us say to every negro who wishes to go into the ranks on condition of being made free—"Go and fight; you are free." If we press them, they will go against us. We know that every one who could fight for his freedom had no chance. The only side that has had the advantage of this element is the Yankees—a people that can beat us to the end of the year in making bargains. Let us imitate them in this—I would imitate them in nothing else. My own negroes have been to me and said: "Master, set us free, and we will fight for you; we had rather fight for you than for the Yankees." But suppose it should not be so—there is no harm in trying. With all my every attachments and prejudices, I would give up all. It can only be done by the States separately. What State will lead off in this thing? (A voice—"Virginia.") If separate State councils had been followed, we would now have been hand in hand and foot to the Yankees. What State led off in this Revolution? South Carolina. One State after another wheeled into line, until at last, when there, far away in the South, every eye was turned northward—when men were asking, day by day, what of old Virginia?—it was telegraphed that she was going to desert the South, that a majority were in favor of the Union. We honored Virginia as the mother of States and of statesmen—gloried in her as part of our possessions. We had men from Virginia all about us, and were bound to her by indissoluble ties. Day after day came the same tidings—Virginia will not come. ("Who said it?") Everybody said it, and it was true until Lincoln insulted you. Then the telegraph wires flashed the news—Virginia has seceded! Such a spectacle never before greeted my eyes. Men whose faces looked like the parchment upon which their bonds were written, rushed into the streets, danced, hugged and kissed each other. Cannon were fired, and it was a great day. South Carolina, I know, will follow Virginia as well as every other Southern State, if she but give the lead.—When shall it be done? ("Now.") Now. Let your Legislature pass the necessary laws, and we will soon have twenty thousand men down in those trenches fighting for the country. You must make up your minds to try

from Lincoln to Blair? "As you have shown me the note of Mr. Davis, you may say to him that I will see any messenger informally sent to confer upon measures to restore peace to our *one country*."

Under these circumstances, our friends went forward for the conference. Each was furnished with a copy of the letter written by our President, "You may so forward and confer with the enemy upon means to restore peace to the *two countries*."

That was all, except the confidential interview of Blair with the President, which I cannot relate in the presence of so many people. I believe, contrary to the honorable gentleman who has preceeded me, that when Blair came to Richmond there was an opportunity for suspending fighting and bloodshed, in which time measures might be taken for the restoration of peace; but none of us, for a moment, dreamed of reconstruction. Is it wonderful that our President, whose only defect is that he is too tender-hearted, should have yielded to the temptation of trying to stop the bloodshed of his countrymen, of which every drop seemed to come from his own heart? [Applause.] The Vice-President was confident of the feasibility of his own theory—which we were not—and what better could we do than send him to attempt to make a favorable impression upon the enemy? We knew its failure would be the signal for a grand uprising of the people, which was the only element necessary to success. We hear it now in the improved tone of public sentiment.

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I will now call your attention to some figures, which I wish you to seriously ponder. In 1860, the South had 1,664,000 arms-bearing men. How many men have the Yankees sent against us? In 1861, 654,000; in 1862, 740,000; in 1863, 700,000; in 1864, they called out 1,500,000. Here you have the figures that they brought out 3,000,000 men, against 1,664,000 Confederates, who lived at the beginning of the war to draw the sword in their country's service. Our resources of white population have greatly diminished; but you had 680,000 black men of the same ages; and could Divine prophecy have told us of the fierceness of the enemy's death-grapple at our throats—could we have known what we now know, that Lincoln has confessed that without the 200,000 negroes which he stole from us he would be compelled to give up the contest, should we have entertained any doubt upon the subject? [A voice—"We will make him give it up yet."]

I feel that the time is rapidly coming on when the people will wonder that they ever doubted. Let us say to every negro who wishes to go into the ranks on condition of being made free—"Go and fight; you are free." If we press them, they will go against us. We know that every one who could fight for his freedom had no chance. The only side that has had the advantage of this element is the Yankees—a people that can beat us to the end of the year in making bargains. Let us imitate them in this—I would imitate them in nothing else. My own negroes have been to me and said: "Master, set us free, and we will fight for you; we had rather fight for you than for the Yankees." But suppose it should not be so—there is no harm in trying. With all my every attachments and prejudices, I would give up all. It can only be done by the States separately. What State will lead off in this thing? (A voice—"Virginia.") If separate State councils had been followed, we would now have been hand in hand and foot to the Yankees. What State led off in this Revolution? South Carolina. One State after another wheeled into line, until at last, when there, far away in the South, every eye was turned northward—when men were asking, day by day, what of old Virginia?—it was telegraphed that she was going to desert the South, that a majority were in favor of the Union. We honored Virginia as the mother of States and of statesmen—gloried in her as part of our possessions. We had men from Virginia all about us, and were bound to her by indissoluble ties. Day after day came the same tidings—Virginia will not come. ("Who said it?") Everybody said it, and it was true until Lincoln insulted you. Then the telegraph wires flashed the news—Virginia has seceded! Such a spectacle never before greeted my eyes. Men whose faces looked like the parchment upon which their bonds were written, rushed into the streets, danced, hugged and kissed each other. Cannon were fired, and it was a great day. South Carolina, I know, will follow Virginia as well as every other Southern State, if she but give the lead.—When shall it be done? ("Now.") Now. Let your Legislature pass the necessary laws, and we will soon have twenty thousand men down in those trenches fighting for the country. You must make up your minds to try that, or see your army withdrawn from before your town. I come here to say disagreeable things. I tell you, you are in danger—unless some radical measure be taken. I know not where the white men are. It is said there are quartermasters' clerks, railroad employees and men in bomb-proofs—but I tell you there are not enough able-bodied white men in the country. Do you suppose we have worked night after night, by this infamous gas-light you have here, and not found out this thing? My honorable friend as told you that deserters and skulkers would come in. Possibly, but where is Tennessee, and other States that were formerly relied on? You have a part of Virginia, part of North Carolina, part of South Carolina, and part of other States. What else? (A voice—"Texas.") Texas. She is beyond our reach. Would that she were not.

Mr. Benjamin then spoke of Louisiana and her shattered brigades of Starke and Stafford, who have laid down their lives in our service; of Yulee, who wounded and disabled, resigned his commission, which the President refused to receive, and placed him in what he called a "bomb-proof"—in the conscription bureau of Louisiana; of Henry Hayes, who was repeatedly wounded in the service; and of Yonke, who is in North Carolina encouraging by raise recruits among the Irish catholics. Louisiana has done much, but you cannot make a step forward that she will not follow you.

Mr. Benjamin asked, what do our enemies propose to do? and read from the New York *Tribune* of the 6th instant, a review of Butler's speech, which argued that it was the duty of the government to render justice to the negro—to educate him—to give him a fair share of the lands his farther wrought upon—to leave him in the State where he was reared, and furnish him with the means to begin life. After that, he was to be left severely alone; that is to take his place with other citizens.

Now, said Mr. Benjamin, if there be hell upon earth, it would be universal emancipation of the negroes and the Yankees rule over us. Can you imagine yourselves in a city where the municipal officers were your former slaves, in a military organization of which the officers were negroes? with the malice of the Yankees firing their hearts to wreak vengeance upon us? That is to be our fate if we fail in this contest. And yet much object to making use of the means within our reach, because, forsooth, it might fail. It looks to me very much like a man rushing forth from his burning house, and begging his neighbors, for heaven's sake, not to throw water on his blazing roof, because it might spoil his furniture. (Applause.)

Mr. Benjamin read an extract from the New York *Post*, published in 1862, to show the devilish malignity of our enemies. The article showed that, under the institution of slavery, the number of negroes had increased from 700,000 to 4,000,000. He would plead guilty to that indictment, and thanked God that the institution of slavery had thus preserved that unfortunate race. The Southern system was the true system for the improvement of the blacks and the freedom of the whites. But if we were in a condition when we could no longer protect the slaves, we would say to them, we yield what we believe to be the best system on earth under protest, and take the next best system which could be obtained. He painted the scene in the Yankee Congress when the "constitutional amendment" was passed, and held up their mock philanthropy in glaring colors.

There is one other thing wanted. After you have given us all the means and all the men we want, the croakers should be hanged. [Good.] They should be put in the trenches, and the soldiers should inflict punishment upon them. Put them in the trenches, and let the soldiers come to town and take their places. That is the sort of capital punishment I would record them. These croakers say, "This or that general is whipped;" God is sixty and calico ninety." They have no right to talk in this manner. A man recently came to my house and commenced croaking, when I took up my hat and left, saying I would not listen to him. [Applause.] These men, who have not spent one night out of their comfortable beds since the beginning of the war, are uttering their dismal complaints, while the soldiers are passing resolutions that if they do not cease they will fight them and the Yankees too. He then read resolutions of the Fifty-seventh, Fourteenth and Thirty-first Virginia regiments, and Davis's Mississippi brigade, showing the spirit and determination of our soldiers. That, he said, was the way to talk. These were model soldier resolutions, scorn for the croakers, confidence in their rulers, and contempt for the weak-kneed. Also, resolutions of a similar character from a Louisiana regiment, showing that they would make every sacrifice for the defence of Virginia, upon whose soil so many of their number had laid down their lives; that they entertained fond memories of home, but were fired with a stern resolve not to return until this fight was fought to the end. Louisiana stood at this hour as firm and erect as in 1861, when the first shot was fired at Sumter. There was no proposition for peace there; the war would not cease so long as the foot of the foe pressed their soil.

Mr. Benjamin said he saw no prospect of a cessation of this struggle during the present year. Let every man stand up and serve his heart to the contest. The enemy was utterly unable to continue this war beyond the present campaign. Let us stand up firmly, and we shall be free.

In conclusion, Mr. Benjamin drew a beautiful picture of peace and its consequent blessings, and said all that and more awaited us if we nerved ourselves as we ought to for this last struggle.

REMARKS OF MR. JOHN A. GILMER, OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Mr. John A. Gilmer, of North Carolina, then came forward, amid cheers and applause, and addressed the assemblage. He said:

All doubts and divisions have passed away from among us. There is now one universal concurrence of opinion that there is nothing left us but to prosecute the war. The consequences of failure you have already been told. It is useless to consume time by multiplying words. If we lose our independence, we lose all our property, of every kind, in the country—our debts, our slaves, and our lands. But we lose more. The people of the United States have a greater debt than we, and we shall not escape without being obliged to pay our proportion of their debt. In what a condition will that leave us, with our property, our lands, bonds, houses and slaves, all gone, and the mighty debt incurred by the enemy in his war for our subjugation still to be borne, in part, by us and our children? Then our subjugation, with all its personal evils, the utter degradation it involved, must be considered. Subjugation—submission—presents no hope; but in continuing the war it was otherwise. We can see clearly the end and the evils of submission. It involves our utter degradation and the turning loose among us, on a footing of equality, to the

determination of our society and civilization millions of negroes. The final result of prosecuting the war is not now discernable, but it certainly holds out the hope. Our present condition is not by far so desperate as at one time was that of our forefathers in the Revolution, either in the matter of men, internal resources, or the financial condition of our country. Any one who will now read and ponder their history (the history of our first Revolution) will be convinced of this.—But we must do as did our forefathers. They went to the front and faced the music. We must do the same. Could we consult their shades to-day they would bid us be of good cheer; to throw ourselves, heart and soul, into the contest, and, under the guidance of an All-wise Providence, victory would crown our efforts, and liberty and independence, with all their blessings, would again be given us. [Long continued applause.] If we imitate the example of our sires, our success will be as glorious and triumphant as theirs. So far, in this war, we have proved ourselves no degenerate sons of illustrious sires. [Cheers and applause.] Let us not only persevere as we have begun, but redouble our exertions. Many there are who are discouraged by the vast superior numbers that the enemy can bring, and have brought, into the field against us; and say we shall never be able to succeed against such odds. Those who make these discouraging calculations ask the question, "Where are now all the millions the enemy have put into the field since the beginning of the war?" The answer is easy. They have met our arms, and their bones whiten our battle fields; they have accustomed our sun and our climate, and myriads have died and disappeared from the earth. [Cries of "That's it," "Served them right."] Their armies now, after all the reinforcements of successive drafts, have dwindled away until to-day they are nowhere able to take head against the armies of the South.

In conclusion, Mr. Gilmer addressed himself to the ladies, and paid them a handsome eulogy upon the power of their charms and and exhortations in nerving our soldiers to deeds of heroism, and hoped they would neglect no opportunity to exert their influence in exciting and maintaining amongst every man the determination to be free or to die in the struggle.

After the conclusion of Mr. Gilmer's remarks, the President, at half past 3 o'clock p. m., announced that the meeting would take a recess till 7 o'clock p. m.

The War News.

FROM PETERSBURG.

The Express of the 11th, says:

There has been no change in the Military situation on the right since our last report.—The enemy is confronted at every point of his new lines by our troops, and at present shows no other disposition than to strengthen his works. When pretty strongly fortified Grant may see proper to attempt another extension.

On the 23d ult., a detachment of Capt. Sandburn's Scouts tapped the Yankee telegraph wire, in about one mile of Cabin Point. The Yankees soon discovered the disconnection, and sent out an operator, and an ambulance, containing material for repairs, guarded by an escort of thirty five negro cavalry, to discover and re-establish the break. When the party came in sight, our scouts charged them, killing eleven of the negroes, capturing twenty four horses, the ambulance and material, the operator and driver, and put the balance of the negroes to flight. The captures were safely brought off. The only loss among the scouts in this affair, was one killed. A man named Morris, formerly in the Yankee service but who, since he had joined our scouts, has behaved on many occasions in the bravest and most acceptable manner. Since their operations in Grant's rear, Captain Sandburn's scouts have turned over to the Government 120 horses 80 mules, and some valuable material.

We learn that Grant has thoroughly fortified his army in the rear. He is now nearly as strong in that quarter as he is in front. This is done in order to prevent raids similar to Gen. Hampton's celebrated cattle expedition. Every road is strongly barricaded, and heavy lines of works extend in every direction.

The Yankees have recently extended their picket lines from near Reams' station, two miles towards Monk's Neck Bridge, in connection with their late movement to Hatcher's run.

FROM WILMINGTON.

The *Carolinian* of the 11th, contains the following from below:

It would seem that the usually quiet denizens of Little River, and the surrounding country, have been recently disturbed by the landing of a considerable force of Yankees in their midst. It is understood that the object is to strike the Manchester railroad, at a point in the vicinity of Whiteville, in Columbus county.

The alarm in our own town, yesterday, seemed very much impregnated with some strange whisperings in relation to important movements, which we decline publishing, as we are in secret session and officially reticent.

South Carolina.

We clip the following from the Wilmington *North Carolinian*, of the 11th. It is the first positive information which we have had, of the occupation of Branchville.

Nothing is said of it in the Wilmington *Journal*, or the Charleston *Courier* of the same date:

Sherman has tapped the South Carolina railroad at three different points. His main column advanced on Branchville, from which our forces retired without fighting, and assumed a position at Shuck's Corner, a small village between Branchville and Kingsville. The enemy, it is said, is now advancing on Augusta, having learned that we had a strong force posted at various points between him and Kingsville.

THE NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATION.—We violate no confidence in saying that, at a consultation between the members Congress from North Carolina, and the commissioners recently sent by the legislature of that State to confer with the Confederate authorities, it was the *unanimous* recommendation of the Congressmen, and the united opinion of all, that no movement for a State Convention be instituted or encouraged.

The commissioners, we are further informed, expressed themselves much gratified by their interview with the President.

It is delightful to record these evidences of harmony among ourselves, and if such was the spirit before Lincoln put his late affront upon us, and made a fresh declaration of his intolerable designs, we may confidently anticipate the most perfect and enthusiastic unanimity on the further prosecution of our great struggle.

THE CONFEDERATE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1865.

The Legislature.

This body adjourned on yesterday morning at nine o'clock, to re assemble on the 3rd Thursday of May next. It must be a great relief to the people who are true to their country, to get rid, even for this short period, of a body whose majority has made it memorable for all time, for its base and unmanly desertion of the country in its extremest peril.

When it met, it was thought to be composed of men, who had, at heart, the independence of the nation. By far the larger portion of them had been elected either as "out and out" true and loyal men, who, are called destructives; or as Vance Conservatives—men who, though opposed to the administration of President Davis, and inclined to keep up a political partizan organization, were, nevertheless, reliable in the cause of the country. These Vance men had pledged themselves, either directly, or by unmistakable implication, to sustain the war; to urge no separate State action; to oppose agitation, and to support the policy of Gov. Vance, in aid of the conflict in which the nation is engaged. *To our knowledge*, such was the position of Mr. Fowle in this county, as understood by five hundred at least of those who voted for him, whose vote he could never have received, if they could have foreseen the course he has pursued. Such was the position of S. F. Phillips, Mr. Grissom, Amis, Lasater and, with the exception of about fifteen or twenty, all the Conservatives of either house of the Legislature. That the constituents of these gentlemen have been wofully mistaken and deceived, there can be no question.

If the Legislature has done one act to favor the cause of the country—to strengthen its resources, or the force of the army—we should be glad to point it out; on the contrary, in every conceivable way, by all possible devices, openly and shamelessly, it has done every thing that lay in its power to diminish the capacity of the nation to carry on the war; to thwart the government, in its efforts to maintain the struggle for independence; to throw open the country to the inroads of the enemy, and prepare the hearts of the people for submission. It not only filled the offices within its gift with able-bodied men, who were within the age of conscription, but it carved out other offices not needed expressly to provide places into which it might place these liable to conscription, to keep them out of the service. It not only refused to place the justices of the peace in the military service, but it created eight hundred. Some of them, useless officers; and many of them for counties now occupied by the enemy, where by no possibility can they exercise the duties. "*The soldiers in the field shall have no reinforcements—not a man shall be sent to strengthen them. They shall fight the war out as they stand.*" We call the attention of the soldiers to this fact. We invite them to look to the Legislative record and they will there find who it has been, who have doomed them to perform unaided, un-reinforced, the hard, arduous, dangerous duties which are more difficult and more dangerous, because, they, the soldiers, are so few. While this Legislature thus refused to add an iota to the strength of the army—while it was resorting to disgraceful shifts to prevent its reinforcement, the enemy was pressing the State in its most vital points, and Gen. Lee was urging, in the most earnest terms, that his forces should be reinforced.

This record is made. It is one of dishonor, however the cause may turn out. If the enemy triumphs over us, he will look at it with wonder and contempt, to see how men could abandon their country in her hour of dire necessity. If the sun of liberty, for us, sink in cloud and storm—if our cause fail—if we are subjugated, and take the place of lost nationalities, on no body more than on this Legislature will sit the responsibility. Through all history, the action of those who will have contributed to this ruin will be recited for the scorn of after ages, and among no portion of mankind will the pusilanimous motives which instigated this action, be more despised than by the enemies of our country, who will profit by it.

The dispatches to-day are of thrilling interest. We forbear comment on them at present.

The *only terms of peace offered by our enemies*, are—

The unconditional submission of the States and people.

The acceptance of the laws confiscating property

The submission to the liabilities and penalties incurred in the defence of our country.

The acceptance of the amendments to the United States Constitution, taking away the property of the slaveholder, and the establishment of negro equality.

Before expressing the sentiments with which these propositions impress us, we wait to see whether those who have heretofore differed from us, will offer us hopes of united action.

Legislative Summary.

The General Assembly met yesterday morning at 7. a. m., and continued in session for about two hours, the time being chiefly consumed in the ratification of acts and resolutions.

Votes of thanks were voted by both Houses to their respective Speakers, and a joint select Committee, Messrs Ellis, Leitch, Fowle, Phillips, and Brown, of Mecklenburg, appointed to investigate alleged abuses and illegallities committed by the railroads of the State.

We regret to learn that the dwelling of David Barlow Esq., of this County, was consummed by fire on the night of the 3rd inst. We understand that Mr. Barlow saved very little of his furniture, losing nearly everything in the House with it.

Cause of the fire accidental.—*Tar. Southern.*

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

NIGHT SESSION.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Feb 6th 1865.

Bills to reclaim Swamp lands; to authorize the levying of a tax in Alamance county for the support of soldiers families; to give jurisdiction to the Superior Court of Wilson; to amend the charter of the Pittsboro and Haywood Plank Road Co; to incorporate the *Conservative* Publishing Company; in reference to the town of Kinton; and divers resolutions passed their their third reading.

The bill to amend the act to increase the efficiency of the Home Guard [illegible]ization was after some debate slightly amended and passed.

The bill to exempt the Commissioners and Police of the city of Raleigh from Home Guard duty was rejected on its second reading and the Senate adjourned to 7 o'clock tomorrow morning.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, Feb. 7, 1865.

Pursuant the adjournment to Senate met this morning at 7 o'clock a. m., Speaker Mebane in the chair.

The journal of yesterday's three several sessions were read and approved.

A message was received from the House proposing to postpone the time of adjournment one hour. Agreed to. Also other messages transmitting a number of bills and resolutions for ratification.

Mr. Stubbs introduced a bill to amend the charter of the town of Salisbury which, under a suspension of the rules, passed its several readings.

Messrs. Horton and Blount recommended several persons as magistrates. Not agreed to.

The speaker announced Messrs. Ellis and Leitch as the Senate branch of the joint select committee to investigate certain alleged abuses and charter violations by the railroads of the State.

Mr. Patterson introduced the following:

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Senate are due and are hereby tendered to the Honorable Giles Mebane for the able, dignified, and impartial manner in, which he has presided over the Senate during the present session; which resolution was adopted and the Senate rising.

Mr. Speaker Mebane said it was an old established custom on occasions of this sort for the presiding officer to make some remarks, and in compliance with that custom he must testify his appreciation of the compliment the Senate had seen fit to pay him. As the presiding officer of that body he had invariable received the most courteous treatment from all, and now that Senators were about to leave the halls of legislation for a season, and repair to their homes, it was his sincere desire their return might be a safe one and that there they might find their families well and happy. The Senate, he concluded, stands adjourned till the third Thursday in May next, and thereupon, pursuant to joint order, the Senate adjourned till the 18th day of May, 1865.

[In thus closing his accounts of Senate proceedings the Reporter would do injustice to an obliging, energetic, and thoroughly efficient officer of that body were he not to acknowledge the many obligations he is under to Neill McKay Esqs., Principal Clerk. To Mr. Wm. R. Page, Principal, and Mr. Talley, Assistant Door-keeper, he is also indebted for many facilities rendered in performance of his reportorial duties.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House met at 7 o'clock, Mr. Fowle in the chair, Speaker Donnell being detained by illness from his post.

On motion of Mr. Waugh, a message was sent to the Senate requesting the concurrence of that body in a postponement of the time of adjournment one hour.

Mr. Grissom introduced a resolution instructing the Principal Clerk to prepare and have printed a calander of the unfinished business of the session.

Senate bill to amend the charter of the town of Salisbury was, under a suspension of the rules, read three times and passed.

On motion of Mr. Shepherd, the resolution to appoint a joint select committee to investigate alleged abuses and charter violations, by the railroads of the State, was taken up and, under a suspension of the rules, passed its final reading.

Mr. Benbury introduced the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Honorable R. S. Donnell is entitled to and is hereby rendered the thanks of this House of Commons for the able, dignified, and satisfactory manner in which he has discharged the duties of Speaker during the sessions of this Legislature.

Mr. Benbury also introduced the following which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That Messrs. R. S. Tucker, principal, and Jno. S. Stanley, assistant clerk of this House are hereby tendered the thanks of this House for the faithful discharge of their duties.

On the resolution of thanks to Speaker Donnell,

Mr. Grissom delivered a few remarks, stating the great importance of a Speakership of a legislative body, and paying an eloquent tribute to the conduct of Hon. R. S. Donnell in that capacity.

The House branch of the Joint Select Committee to investigate alleged abuses by the railroad companies of the State, was then announced as consisting of Messrs. Fowle, Phillips, and Brown, of Mecklenburg.

And the House was then declared adjourned till the third Thursday in May next.

[To R. T. Tucker Esqs. Principal Clerk of the House of Commons, the Reporter is largely indebted for valuable assistance—in the way of furnishing documents etc., rendered during the past session. Mr. T. Keeps his journal in excellent order and is ever ready to oblige the Press with every facility, even the most exacting might require.]

FALL OF PRICES.—There is a general feeling of gratification at the downward progress of prices of some of the necessaries of life, flour, corn, pork, bacon, beef, &c. The sales have been at 20 to 50 per cent. below the prices of the earlier part of last week. The most marked change was in flour, which sold on one day at $650 and on the next at $300. Corn fell from $42 to $30, pork from $6 to $4, beef from $3 to 225. There is still a wide margin downwards, for these and other things.—*Fayetteville Observer.*

DECLINED.—We learn that the office of Commissary-General of the Confederate States was tendered to Col. Wm. Johnston of this place. Mr. Johnston declined the position.—*Western Democrat.*

Mr. A. Dudley Mann, says the Montreal (Canada) correspondent of the New Nork Tribune, has written from Paris to Saunders, who is now in Canada, that Napoleon has determined to recognize the Confederacy soon after the inauguration of Lincoln on the 4th of March.

Spirit of the Army.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY H,
THIRTEENTH VIRGINIA INFANTRY,
January 28, 1865.

At a meeting held by companies "H," "I" and "K," Thirteenth Virginia regiment infantry, Captain S. D. Buck was called to the chair and G. M. Wolfe appointed Secretary. The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, We have heard with surprise and regret that a feeling of despondency has manifested itself in certain parts of our country: and whereas, we understand that the devotion and loyalty of the army of Northern Virginia to the cause of our independence has been questioned; and whereas, the public enemy is encouraged and misled by these apparent signs of weakness, want of determination and firmness of purpose:

Be it resolved as the opinion of these companies, That in the present aspect of affairs we see nothing to occasion gloom or despondency, but, on the contrary, we believe that the past four years of war have proved, beyond all doubt, the abilities of the slave-holding States to maintain and protect, against all enemies, the Government which they have established.

Resolved, That it is our firm and determined purpose to continue this war through all disaster and difficulties, cheerfully bearing every hardship and braving every danger until the independence of the Confederate States is recognized and and acknowledged.

Resolved, That we ridicule, as absurd, the idea of reconstruction, for we believe re-union would subject us again to the government of that sectional majority which is confined to the abolition States, and which is alike a stranger to our institutions, feelings and habits of thought as a people, and foreign to our territory.

Resolved, That while we earnestly desire peace, we believe the present channel for diplomatic intercourse, as established by custom and law, are sufficient for all practicable purposes, and when the Government of the United States is prepared to recognize our independence and right to govern ourselves, no difficulty will be experienced in the two nations communicating with each other.

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to resist every attempt, whenever and wherever made, to repudiate the public debt; that we consider the resources of the country equal to its payments, and we earnestly entreat our friends and relations at home to give full faith and credit to our Government, and to lend it every possible aid and assistance.

Resolved, That we respectfully recommend to our comrades in arms to renew, in this dark hour of the war, their pledges to their country and their firm resolve, under Divine protection, never to submit to the Government of the United States.

Resolved, That in the great and good men, Generals R. E. Lee, J. E. Johnston and G. T. Beauregard, we recognise the highest military capacity and in their ability and patriotism we have unbounded confidence.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be communicated to the troops from Fredrick and Hampshire counties, in other commands, and that they be published in the Richmond *Examiner*.

SAMUEL D. BUCK, President.
G. M. MILLER WOLFE, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS.

Passed at a Meeting of the Fourteenth Regiment of Virginia Infantry, in Relation to the Condition of the Country and the Conduct of the War.

STUART'S BRIGADE,
Pickett's Division.

At a meeting of the Fourteenth Virginia Infantry, held at their camp, near Barmuda Hundreds, January 24, 1865, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas the successes which have recently attended the arms of our enemies, in their mad determination to subjugate an enlightened, christian and independent people, have cast a gloom over our land; and whereas, a disposition of many weak-hearted and weak-minded counsellors to magnify defeat into hopeless disaster, and to give current publicity to rumors questioning the unabated fervor of the veterans in our armies in support of the sacred cause for which they have sacrificed every comfort, during four years of continuous warfare, and which they still live to defend, has generated a degree of dependence in the breast of some of whom we might have respected better things; and deeming an unqualified expression of our opinion, as a regiment, and a similar one on the part of our brothers in arms, will be sufficient to dispel this gloom, and to check and extinguish forever the wild rumors which have found too rich a repast in credulous minds, for the public good: Therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That a Southern soldier or citizen, who for any other consideration than that of absolute freedom and eternal separation from that enemy who have spared no species of insult or injury that malice could devise, would lay down his arms, and now submit, is unworty to breathe the air of freedom, and should, with his posterity, be the serf of serfs to the remotest generation.

2. *Resolved*, That we hereby pledge to the living, and to those who shall come after us, in support of our own liberty, and their ransom from worse than Egyptian bondage, as our fathers have done before us, "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor," assuring them that it is better to die freemen than to live slaves.

3. *Resolved*, That we have unbounded confidence in our ability, under the guidance of an over-ruling Providence, to achieve a glorious triumph in the present struggle, directed by that great, good and gallant spirit that has so often led us to victory.

4. *Resolved*, That the thanks of the army are due, and hereby tendered to the Congress of the Confederate States, for the energy and vigor displayed in its recent legislations, and its evident determination to sustain our soldiery through every trial, to the rich reward of peace and happiness.

5. *Resolved*, That we have watched, with grateful pleasure, the proceedings of the Virginia Legislature, and are proud to be represented by so patriotic a body.

6. *Resolved*, That we earnestly appeal to the citizens and soldiers to re-dedicate their lives and fortunes upon the altar of their country, and resolve that the graves of our fathers, our homes and our firesides, shall still be ours to transmit as heir-looms to free and happy nations yet unborn, who shall mark with emulous pride our "foot-prints on the sands of time."

7. *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Virginia Legislature, the Congress of the Confederate States, and to the papers of the city of Richmond, for publication.

Meeting of the 68th N. C. Troops.

At a meeting of the members of the 68th Regiment N. C. State Troops, encamped near Goldsboro, N. C., on February 3d, 1865, Private James R. Doughtie was called to the Chair and expressed the object of the meeting in a short and eloquent speech. Appointed the following committee to draft resolutions, expressive of the sense of the Regiment upon the state of the country and the crisis now upon us:

Capt, L. C. Lawrence,	Chairman.
Sergt. Willis Grandy,	Co. B.
" T. D. Warren,	" H.
Priv. Maj. Gregory,	" B.
Sergt. J. M. Thomas,	" A.
" J. W. Willey,	" I.
" T. J. Taylor,	" D.
Corp. J. R. Dyers,	" F.
Sergt. W. McD. Wynns	" E.
" B B. Barco,	" G.
" M. W. Perry,	" F.
" E. N. Jacobs,	" K.

Lieutenants Hinton and Garner addressed the meeting and the following preamble and resolutions were reported by the Chairman and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The recent success of our enemies having caused much despondency among our friends at home, and many even to despair of our ultimate success:

WHEREAS, The union sympathizers among us, many of them unprincipled descendants of revolutionary tories and others bought by Federal gold, encouraged by these successes have more boldly defied the authorities, assisted by armed bands who have cowardly deserted their flag, and openly express hopes of our subjugation, with all its attendant horrors;

WHEREAS, Recognizing State Sovereignty as the ground works of our Government, and believing that the action of its majority should be final, and that opposition to that majority can have no other object than to create disaffection in sentiment and division in effort; and that the chief aims of these agitators are to sell their country to the most fiendish enemy that ever cursed God's green earth:

Be it Resolved, That having an abiding faith in the justice of God; the sacredness of our cause; the strength of our arms, and confidence in the ability and honesty of our rulers and commanders; we, as good soldiers, will bear with cheerfulness, whatever evils the misfortunes of War may entail upon us, supported by the consciousness that we are contending for the existence of great moral truths, the perpetuity of which, is essential to the good government and happiness of mankind.

Resolved, That under no circumstances will we consent to a restoration of a Union, whose supporters have so often and so ruthlessly driven from our homes those mothers to whom we are indebted for all that we are; and that we will obey the mandates they gave us when they bade us "Go and return with this shield or upon it."

Resolved, That while we recognize the freedom of the press as "one of the great bulwarks of liberty," and believe that it should be untrammeled so long as it pursues its lawful objects, the proper enlightment of the people; we yet cannot see why the evil genius of a corrupt editor should not be restrained as well as the arm of the base deserter, whose mind he has disordered by holding up to his contempt those laws which should check the vicious and protect the weak.

Resolved, That we denounce with bitter condemnation all such agitators as traitors, and declare our willingness to cordially support our Government in punishing them as such.

Resolved, That while we hail with joy and all honorable means for obtaining peace, yet we will never willingly lay down our arms until our independence be acknowledged.

Resolved, That copies of these preambles and resolutions be forwarded to His Excellency, Governor Vance, and to the Richmond Examiner, Conservative, and Daily State Journal, for publication.

There being no more business before the meeting, it adjourned *sine die*.

J. R. DOUGHTIE, Ch'n.
J. N. HINTON, Sec'y.

Endurance the Road to Success.

In a late Richmond *Examiner* Mr. Pollard gives the results of "Ten months' observation in the enemy's country." In this article, which ought to be administered in boluses to all croakers who can be made to digest in no other way, Mr. Pollard puts us in possession of some most encouraging facts. It must premised that Mr. Pollard did not conduct his observations in the style of Gen. Seymour at the South; he did not look through the window of a jail and then come home to expatiate upon a public sentiment of which he could know nothing at all. Enjoying the privileges of a prisoner at large, living in a hotel, and mixing and conversing freely with all sorts of persons, he had ample opportunities of noting the tone of the popular mind. We may, therefore, rely upon his report. Among a great many things of much interest, he tells us that the Yankees are on the brink of exhaustion, and that the source of this exhaustion is neither the condition of their finances nor the number of Confederate victories, but simply the growing difficulty of obtaining recruits.

As an evidence of this, he states that their last draft of three hundred thousand brought but seventy thousand men—that a large majority of the recruits obtained since Lincoln's election are negroes—that Grant's army, within the lines of which he spent six days, is composed of negroes in the proportion of three negroes to one white man—that the next draft will fall far more signally than any which preceded it—that, in that event, conscription must be resorted to, and that then the war must break down. Such, he says, is the universal belief at the North. All parties agree that the only hope of subduing the South lies in the desire of the South to see the war closed and this desire they all hope, will lead to its submission before it becomes necessary to enforce a conscription. The vote of all the armies around Richmond in the Presidential election was but eighteen thousand, there being only that number of natives born or naturalized men under Grant—an overwhelming proof of the distate which the Yankees have for the glories of the field, and an indication of the trouble which a conscription, calling for all classes, will most undoubtedly produce. In view of these facts, Mr. Pollard thinks it far more important than anything else to convince the Yankees that our resolution is not changed, and that our courage is still unbroken; for, notwithstanding our resistance of four years, many of them still are, or at least affect to be, unconvinced. That there is, however, a lurking fear that they may be mistaken, can be inferred from the eager interest with which everbody asks whether the "South has the resolution to hold out."

It thus appears that the struggle between the North and South is one of simple endurance. If we can surpass the North in that quality, neither Heed's failure or Sherman's success will alter the ultimate result. All that we have to do is to go on fighting, and even though defeat should be piled upon defeat, we must win in the end.—*South Carolinian.*

General Forrest announces himself in favor of arming 200,000 negroes.

TELEGRAPHIC.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Message from the President and Report of the Peace Commission.

RICHMOND, Feb. 6.—The following message was laid before Congress this afternoon:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, RICHMOND, FEB. 6.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Recently I received written notification, which satisfied me that the President of the United States was disposed to confer informally, with unofficial agents, that might be sent by me, with a view of restoring peace. I requested Hon. A. H. Stephens, Hon. R. M. T. Hunter and Hon. John A. Campbell to proceed through our lines to hold a conference with Mr. Lincoln, or such persons as he might designate, to represent him.

I hereby submit for the information of Congress, a report of the eminent citizens above named, showing that the enemy refused to enter into negotiations with the Confederate States, or any of them separately, or give to our people any other terms or guarantees than those which consequence may grant, or permit us to have, nor any other basis than our unconditional submission to their rule, coupled with an acceptance of their recent legislation, including the amendment to the Constitution, for the emancipation of all negro slaves, and with the right, on the part of the Federal Congress, to legislate on the subject of the relation between the white and black population, each. Such is the substance, as I understand, the effect of the amendment to the Constitution, which has been endorsed by the Congress of the United States.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 5.

To the President of the Confederate States:

SIR:—Under your letter of appointment as Commissioners on the 28th, we proceeded to seek an informal conference with Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States upon the subject mentioned in your letter. The conference was granted and took place on the 30th, on board the steamer anchored in Hampton Roads, where we met President Lincoln and Hon. Mr. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States. It continued for several hours, and was both full and explicit. We learned from them that a message of President Lincoln to the Congress of the United States, in December last, explains clearly and distinctly his sentiments as to terms, conditions, and modes of proceeding, by which peace could be secured to the people; and we were not informed that they would be modified or altered to obtain that end. We understood from him that no terms, or proposals of any agreement, looking to an ultimate settlement, would be entertained or made by him, with the authorities of the Confederate States, because that would be a recognition of their existence as a seperate power, which under no circumstances would be done, and for like results, that no such terms would be entertained by him from States separately. That no extended truce or armistice, as advised, would be granted or allowed, without a satisfactory assurance of the complete restoration of the authority of the constitution and laws of the United States, over all places within the States of the Confederacy.

That whatever consequences may follow from the re-establishment of that authority, must be accepted, without regard to the rights of individuals, who may be subject to the pains and penalties, under the laws of the United States. But that all such, might rely upon a very liberal use of the power confided to the President, to remit these pains and penalties, if peace were restored.

During the conference, the proposed amendments to the constitution as adopted by Congress on the 31st, were brought to our mind. These amendments provided that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, should exist within the United States, or any place within their jurisdiction, and Congress should have power to enforce the amendments by appropriate legislation.

Of all the correspondence that preceeded the conference, herein mentioned, and leading to the same, you have herewith been informed.

Very respectfully,

Signed, A. H. STEPHENS,
R. M. T. HUNTER,
J. A. CAMPBELL.

RICHMOND, Feb. 6.—The Commissioners were not allowed to land at Fortress Monroe.

At 9 o'clock Friday morning Lincoln and Seward met them on board. The interview lasted nearly three hours, resulting as stated in yesterdays telegrams. In course of the conversation, Lincoln stated that Blair's visit to Richmond, so far as it contemplated any arrangement of peace was without his approval.

Lincoln and Seward both incidentally admitted the probability of compliation with foreign nations but professed to be able to suppress the rebellion in time to meet them. They were very courteous to our Commissioners. Lincoln related several anecdotes. In parting he said—"God bless you." Hunter asked to be remembered to all old friends in the North.

RICHMOND, Feb. 6.—It is understood that Stephens will return to Georgia in a few days to canvass the State for a vigorous prosecution of the war. He says the only hope left for the whole South was in strong arms and stout hearts.

Confederate Congress.

RICHMOND, Feb. 6.—The Senate adopted the resolution of thanks to Capt. Semmes, his officers and crew, for the victory over the enemy's steamer Hatteras, for long and arduous cruises in the pursuit of, and destruction of the enemy's commerce.

The negro bill was further discussed; the House amendment leaving the number of slaves to be impressed into the army undefined. Agreed to—12 to 8. After executive session, the Senate adjourned.

RICHMOND, Feb. 6.—In the House, resolutions were unanimously adopted, inviting the Commissioners to address the members of Congress and citizens, on Capitol Square.

Mr. Moore offered a resolution directing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of investing the President with power to call into the service all able-bodied male negroes in the Confederate States, to be used as he may think best, to aid in the military defence of our country. The motion to lay them on the table—negatived 32 to 39. The resolution was then adopted.

Mr. Chamber's resolution of enquiry, whether the Confederate Government has the right to purchase slaves as soldiers and offer them freedom, was tabled 35 to —

RICHMOND, Feb. 7.—In the Senate, Mr. Brown submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to report a bill with the least practicable delay, to take into the military service of the Confederate States, a number of negro soldiers, not to exceed two hundred thousand, by voluntary enlistment, with the consent of their masters, or by conscription, as may be found necessary; and, that the Committee provide in said bill, for emancipating said negroes in all cases, where they prove loyal and true to the end of the war; and, for immediate payment under proper restrictions, of their present value to their owners.

Mr. Brown said he introduced this resolution to show, that in his opinion, the time had come when we should employ negro troops. Now if ever was the time. We were in the very crisis of our fate. He had seen, with pleasure, the revival of the war spirit, and hoped it would sweep through the land; but still found our armies not strong enough to withstand the enemy, without the employment of negro troops.

On motion of Mr. Maxwell, the resolution was transferred to the secret calendar. The Senate then resolved itself into secret session.

The House made public the subject which has engaged its attention in secret session for several days past, to wit: the tax bill to meet the discovery of an error in immediate liabilities. The government needs four hundred millions dollars, and the Secretary of the Treasury recommends an increase of the tax one hundred per cent. to meet the deficiency; he says the character of this debt is such that its payment cannot be neglected or postponed, without danger and seriously embarrassing the operations of the War Department.—The House then resolved itself into secret session.

Official from Gen. Lee.

RICHMOND, Feb. 7.—Following dispatch was received to-day:

To Gen. S. Cooper: The enemy moved in strong force yesterday, to Hatchers' Run. Part of his infantry with Gregg's cavalry, crossed, proceeded on Vaughan's road with his infantry to Cat Tail creek, and with his cavalry to Dinwiddie C. H., where its advance encountered Horton with our cavalry, and retired in the afternoon. Part of Hill's and Gordon's troops, demonstrated against the enemy on the left of Hatcher's Run, near Armstrong's Mill; finding him entrenched, they withdrew after dark.

During the night, the force that had advanced beyond the creek returned to it, and were reported to be re-crossing this morning. Pegram's division moved down the right bank of the creek to reconnoitre, when it was vigorously attacked, and the battle was obstinately contested several hours; but Gen. Pegram, being killed, while bravely encouraging his men, and Col. Hoffman wounded, some confusion occurred; and the division was pressed back to its original position.—Evans' division was ordered by Gen. Gordon, to support Gen. Pegram. They charged the enemy and forced him back; but in turn, was compelled to retire. Mahone's division arriving, the enemy was driven rapidly to his defenses at Hatcher's run. Our loss reported small; that of the enemy not supposed great.

(Signed) R. E. LEE, Gen.

Immense War Meeting in Richmond—Speeches of President Davis and Gov. Smith.

RICHMOND, Feb. 7.—In pursuance of a call Gov. Smith addressed an immense public meeting last night at the African Church. A series of patriotic resolutions were adopted. The last one was as follows:

Resolved, That in this presence, and in the face of the world, reverently invoking thereto the aid of Almighty God, we renew our resolve to maintain our liberties and independence, and to this end, mutually pledge ourselves, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

President Davis addressed the meeting about 30 minutes. He was rejoiced to witness this demonstration; and expressed his belief that if the people would give hearty, unanimous response to the demands of the present exigency, the enemy would next ask for a conference in which to make known our demands. His life was bound up in the Confederacy, under no circumstances would he be again for reconstruction and union. The President was frequently interrupted with enthusiastic cheering.

Several other addresses were delivered. A call for another mass-meeting, for Thursday has been published. Weather very inclement today. The ground is covered with snow and sleet.

Fight Near Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, Feb. 7.—There was heavy fighting on our right yesterday and to-day, which resulted favorably to our arms, during a reconnoisance made by Gen. Pegram's Division to Hatcher's Run. Yesterday the enemy attacked and forced his Division back some distance. He was reinforced by Gen. Gordon's Division, when in turn the enemy was forced back a second time. The enemy being reinforced attacked and drove our men, until being strengthened by Mahone's Division, commanded by Gen. Finnegan, a grand charge by the three divisons was made and the enemies, lines broken. A running fight was kept up until after dark, when the Yankees took shelter in their new works on Hatcher's Run, from which they were not driven. Gen. John Pegram was killed. Many of the enemy killed and wounded, and a few, taken prisoners. Our loss was several hundred.

This morning the enemy advanced upon and charged our lines south of Barges's Mill, but were handsomely repulsed. In a charge upon the enemy, Gen. Sorrell, of Ga., was painfully wounded. Heavy firing heard late this afternoon in the same direction. Cause unexplained.

Northern News.

RICHMOND, Feb. 7.—The Philidelphia Enquirer of the 4th has been received. It contains nothing of interest. Impression prevailed at the North on Friday that the conference at Fortress Monroe would result in peace. Nothing else was talked of. Gold closed, however, at 270.

Northern News.

RICHMOND, Feb. 6.—The Herald of the 3d inst., received. It contains an account of the movements of the peace Commissioners, and Lincoln, and speculation as to the result.

Advices from Hilton Head says:

Two corps of Shermans army are advancing against Charleston,

More than two hundred buildings were destroyed by fire in Savannah.

Lincoln has abated twenty-five per cent. of the quota of New York, under the impending draft.

Gold unchanged. Later European news unimportant.

From Charleston.

CHARLESTON, February 8.—A dispatch from Gen. Wheeler, dated Holmes' Bridge, February 7th, at 8 o'clock, says: My pickets, near Blackville, this morning, were charged by three brigades of cavalry, which drove them beyond the village. Dibbrell's Tennessee brigade, being in the vicinity, met and charged the enemy, driving them back into the village.

A dispatche from Branchville, this morning, says: The enemy have made their appearance along the South Carolina Railroad, beyond the Edisto. They burned a house within a mile and a half of the railroad bridge. About seven o'clock yesterday evening, our troops were withdrawn to this side of the railroad bridge, and the bridge was burned.

General Wlader died suddenly on Monday evening, of appoplexy.